

Israelis accuse Egypt of abetting PLO

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, April 12

Two weeks before its scheduled withdrawal from the Sinai, the Israeli Government has accused Egypt of abetting the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), of forming closer links with it, and of breaching certain military clauses in the Camp David peace treaty.

An official refused to provide specific details beyond claiming that Egypt and the PLO had formed markedly closer ties in recent weeks. It is understood that Israel has alleged that these include facilitating the smuggling of weapons across the border into the occupied Gaza Strip.

The Israelis have also accused Egypt of breaching the spirit of the treaty during a speech to a conference of non-aligned countries in Kuwait last week, when the Egyptian delegate, Mr. Ismet Abdel-Meguid, made no reference to Palestinian autonomy, and instead set out a proposal for Palestinian self-determination.

Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, today told a delegation from the armed services committee of the United States House of Representatives that while Israel scrupulously observed the Camp David treaty, Egypt did not always do the same. He said Mr. Abdel-Meguid had attacked Israel in the strongest possible terms and it was inconceivable that he was speaking without higher government approval. His speech, Mr. Begin said, violated the clause in the treaty in which Israel and Egypt undertook not to conduct hostile propaganda against each other.

In a related development, Mr. David Levy, the Deputy Prime Minister, said in a speech to young members of his right wing Herut Party that if because of Egypt's unwillingness to accept the peace treaty, the withdrawal from Sinai was delayed, let it be delayed.

The sudden deterioration of Israeli-Egyptian relations has caused international concern about Israel's willingness to press ahead with

the Sinai evacuation on April 25.

Today, the allegations against the Egyptian Government were passed formally to Mr. Nicholas Veliotes, a United States Assistant Secretary of State who has begun an initiative to iron out the differences. Mr. Walter Stuessel, Deputy Secretary of State, will take over the American diplomatic effort later this week.

After talks this morning between Mr. Veliotes and Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, an Israeli official said Israel had expressed determination that the problems with Egypt must be solved before April 25. He refused to say what steps Israel had threatened if the American mission proved unsuccessful.

In diplomatic circles it was noted that accusations about Egyptian collusion with the PLO particularly its refusal to take action against the PLO office in the Sinai town of El Arish have been made before. There are puzzle-mentations in bringing them to diplomatic prominence at such a crucial point.

The Israeli official said the request for American diplomatic aid represented serious concern about Egypt's intentions after the final Sinai withdrawal. He described Egypt's stand at the non-aligned conference as "very worrying".

Foreign observers thought the Israeli moves were designed to tell the world about the high price the Government feels it is paying for the peace treaty. They were also regarded as an accurate reflection of widespread concern among Israelis over the future of relations with Egypt after the Sinai handover.

In addition to the Israeli complaints about Egyptian attitudes, official negotiations have still failed to resolve 15 outstanding points of difference in demarcation of the border, including the dispute over the resort complex at Taba Bay on the Gulf of Aqaba.



Friends of Reagan to be envoys

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, April 12

Although stung by criticism that he is appointing too many political friends and supporters as ambassadors, President Reagan will name more, not fewer, such candidates in the months to come.

The Los Angeles Times quotes the White House personnel director, Mr. Pendleton James, as declaring: "The question is not whether we have too many political appointees. We don't have enough. I fight in every case for a political appointee instead of a career officer if the appointee is qualified."

The news will not be sweet music to the ears of the American Foreign Service Association, which has 5,000 active-duty and 2,000 retired career officers on its rolls. The association has contended that the "vast majority" of Reagan appointments are people who are "relatively undistinguished as public figures".

In the Los Angeles Times interview, Mr. James said the political appointees were better ambassadors because they had access to the President and White House officials.

"Let's say you're the host country," he said. "Would you rather have an ambassador who knows the minutiae of the operation of the State Department, such as export quotas, or one who has political contacts and can get a Jim Baker, or Ed Meese or Mike Deaver or Al Haig on the phone and make contact with the President?"

"A career officer won't call Al Haig. He will go through the established hierarchy and his message will be filtered down before it will get to the President."

"What has particularly angered me," Mr. James noted, was the recent interview of Mr. Malcolm Toon, the former Ambassador to Moscow who accused the Reagan Administration of using diplomatic postings as a dumping ground for defeated politicians and Republican financial backers.

Mr. Toon, a career diplomat who retired three years ago after 30 years in the service, claimed that some of the most important ambassadors had been placed in the hands of "unqualified amateurs".

He declared that the Ambassador to Britain, Mr. John Louis, a businessman and Republican financial backer, had no qualification for the job except "that he speaks English". He called the Ambassador to Mexico, Mr. John Gavin, "a Hollywood actor, and not a very good one". Of the Ambassador to France, Mr. Ewen Griffin Galbraith, a financier, he noted: "His qualification... is that he speaks French and is a friend of Giscard d'Estaing, who is out of power and is considered the arch-enemy of the man who is running the country."

Mr. James told The Times, however, that the Ambassador to Britain was generally regarded as a serious, hard working man who tried his best to keep his job. He said Embassy staff reported that he worked long hours — and had not gone to London simply for the socializing.

Grenade kills policeman in Bulawayo beer hall

Bulawayo, April 12. — A police officer was killed and three were wounded in a grenade attack on a patrol here in Zimbabwe's second city, a police spokesman said today. At least two civilians were also wounded in the Friday night blast in a suburban beer hall, the spokesman said. He said several people had been arrested in connection with the incident but gave no details.

Five policemen had gone to the beer hall after a report of trouble there, and the grenade was tossed in when they entered, the spokesman said. There was no indication of the motive behind the attack. But there are dissidents in the Matabeleland area, many of them remnants of guerrilla groups who fought in the seven year war in the former Rhodesia.

There have been several armed attacks in Matabeleland, the political power base of Mr. Joshua Nkomo, the opposition leader. Two motorbikes and a policeman were killed in attacks in rural areas south of Bulawayo in the last week in March.

Two Zimbabwean trucks were ambushed in Mozambique and a driver killed on Saturday, a spokesman for the National Freightways Trucking Company said today. The attackers were believed to be members of the Mozambique National Resistance (RNM), he said.

Zimbabwe and Mozambique allege the RNM is backed by South Africa. The spokesman said the attack took place on Saturday morning about three miles from the border post of Nyamapanda in north-eastern Zimbabwe. The driver was named as Reuben Cele, a South African. — Reuters.

Two years of Doe's rule

Liberia's drift to right accelerates

From Godfrey Morrison, Monrovia, April 12

Liberia today celebrated Redemption Day, the second anniversary of a military coup in which the former civilian President, William Tolbert, was killed and more than a century of rule by the country's Americo-Liberian elite was swept away.

This West African state, founded by freed American slaves, is still very much under the control of Mr. Samuel Doe, at the time of the coup a master-sergeant but now commander-in-chief and head of state.

Like other members of the People's Redemption Council (PRC) which exercises supreme power here, he is not of Americo-Liberian descent but comes from one of the tribes from the interior, which felt themselves dominated by the Americo-Liberians.

Internationally, the regime got off to an inauspicious start with public executions of members of the previous administration causing widespread condemnation from African neighbours and the international community.

But the coup was locally popular and the PRC appears to remain so, not least because the establishment of a commission to write a new constitution seems to show that it is in earnest in keeping to its timetable for a return to civilian rule in three years time, on April 12, 1985.

When he seized power at the age of 28 Mr. Doe appeared to many observers a somewhat revolutionary, even apocalyptic, figure. Thin and wiry, hollow cheeked, dressed in combat uniform, he would bark out his public pronouncements in a strange, broken English.

Two years later he is distinctly plump and round-faced, affects well-cut business suits, rattles off prepared text with fluency. The steady drift towards the right accelerated last

August when, after an alleged coup plot had been uncovered, Major-General Thomas Weh Syen, Mr. Doe's deputy, and three other PRC officers were arrested and subsequently executed. They were generally seen as the radical element within the PRC.

The dominant foreign influence here remains the United States and a Libyian order last May that Libya close its Peoples Bureau and that the Soviet Embassy reduce its staff from 15 to six was widely seen as a response to American pressure.

American leverage is easy to understand. "This country is to all intents and purposes broke," was how one economist put it. Without Washington's bilateral aid and assistance from the International Monetary Fund, the economy would cease to function.

Mr. Doe is widely credited here with a genuine desire to get his soldiers back to their barracks, but in restoring civilian rule he has to take into account the wishes of the other members of the PRC and the armed forces.

A principal reason for the coup was that he and his fellow soldiers lived in squalid barracks while Tolbert and his cronies lived off the fat of the land.

It is no accident that a key element in the United States aid programme is \$43.5m (£24m) earmarked for building barracks and living quarters for the Liberian Army. Such are the realities of West African politics.

□ In a speech marking the second anniversary of military rule Mr. Jackson Doe, advisor to the head of state on national and international affairs, called on the military authorities to stamp out corruption, dishonesty and inefficiency from the public service, which was the prime reason for the coup.

Murdoch offer on 'Daily News'

From Michael Harkin, New York, April 12

Mr. Rupert Murdoch, publisher of the New York Post, offered a measure of worker participation to his staff, and to the staff of the New York Daily News, in his attempt to get union support for a takeover of the ailing Daily News.

He warned the Allied Printing Trades Council members who had invited him to meet them to discuss his plans for a possible purchase, that the Post and the News "are engaged in a dance of death, which must end in the disappearance of one or both newspapers". To avoid that, he was prepared to come to an agreement with the News Employees' Share Ownership Trust to merge the ownership of the two papers.

The trust was set up by the staff of the Daily News, who committed to it their current pay increases — a total of \$20m (£11m) in the first year. The employees hope that if all else fails the Chicago Tribune Company, which presently owns the paper, will sell it to them.

The present owners announced at the end of last year that they were putting the paper up for sale because of rapidly growing losses. The company said last week that it had come to an agreement with a Texan millionaire, Mr. Joseph Albritton, provided that he could get the terms he needed from the unions. Mr. Albritton suspended his talks when he heard of the union's approach Mr. Murdoch.

Mr. Murdoch told the trades council today that he would seek immediate savings of labour costs. He said he had been running operating deficits but would then maintain both titles separately.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Turks free Ecevit

Ankara. — Mr. Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister, was released yesterday after spending two days in military custody over alleged statements to the foreign press.

Mr. Ecevit, three times Prime Minister in the decade before the 1980 military coup, has already spent two months in jail for giving stories to the foreign press.

70 drown near Rangoon

Rangoon. — More than 70 people are feared to have drowned when a double-decker ferry carrying 200 passengers, livestock and foodstuffs, sank 20 miles south of here.

The ferry had sailed from the Hlaingyada delta town of Houtay, when it hit a sandbank. Officials said 145 people reached safety, 15 bodies had been recovered and 55 others were missing.

Kidnappers release Rome doctor

Rome. — Dr Luigi Amodio, aged 35, a Rome doctor kidnapped two months ago was freed at the weekend after a payment of £350,000.

He was abducted on January 21 by four men who entered his clinic posing as patients. The fate of nine other people kidnapped in Italy this year remains unknown.

New security chief

Khartoum. — Mr. Omer Muhammad Tayeb, Sudan's security chief, was named first vice-president on Sunday by President Nimeiry. The post had been vacant since General Abdul Hamid Khalil was dismissed in January as part of a purge.

Mother seeks spy to track killer

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, April 12

The mother of a murdered South African academic has flown to the Seychelles in the hope that one of seven alleged mercenaries captured after November's abortive coup may be able to shed some light on the death of her son.

Mrs. Jane Turner, whose son, Dr. Rick Turner, was murdered while serving a five-year government banning order, wants to question Mr. Martin Dolinchek, a self-confessed South African spy. The murder has never been solved.

Mr. Dolinchek, who has claimed he is a member of the National Intelligence Service, the successor to South Africa's Bureau for State Security (Boss), faced a

departmental investigation after Dr. Turner, a Natal University lecturer, was shot dead at his Durban home in January 1978.

He went to answer a knock at the door late at night and was killed by a single shot fired through a front-room window. The killer has never been traced. Mr. Dolinchek was cleared of any involvement at the departmental inquiry.

Mrs. Turner has flown to the Seychelles to follow up claims made by Mr. Arthur McGivern and Mr. Alexander Lambert, two alleged Boss defectors, in London and Stockholm, that a renegade Boss agent may have killed Dr. Turner. Mr. Dolinchek, is expected to give

evidence for the state in the Seychelles trial of the alleged mercenaries.

The trial of the seven, including one woman, was due to begin tomorrow but was postponed to June 15 in the Seychelles Supreme Court in Port Victoria today. Chief Justice Earle Seaton said that by then it was hoped that the trial in the Natal Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg of 43 of the mercenaries on charges of air piracy under South African law should be completed.

The Pietermaritzburg trial is due to resume on April 20. Colonel "Mad Mike" Hoare, the group's leader, and 42 others have pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

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FALKLANDS CRISIS

Argentina fails to delay OAS crisis session

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, April 12

The 30-nation Organization of American States (OAS) has agreed to hold a special session here this evening on the Falkland Islands crisis. Earlier the OAS delayed the session for the second time in four days to allow American mediation attempts a chance to resolve the dispute.

There was a mood of cautious optimism in Washington today that the shuttle diplomacy by Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, could prevent an open confrontation between Britain and Argentina over the islands.

However, while there was hope that shooting in the South Atlantic could be avoided, it was recognized that finding a permanent solution to the 149-year dispute over sovereignty was much more difficult.

American officials were uncharacteristically silent about the proposals which Mr. Haig was understood to have taken from Buenos Aires to London, fearing that leaks to the press at this stage could jeopardize his delicate mission.

Sources said the broad terms of the plan being considered by Mr. Haig would fall within the scope of Security Council Resolution 502 and could include:

An Argentine withdrawal and return of the islands to British administration; an exchange for a recall of the British fleet steaming towards the South Atlantic.

The Argentine flag to be kept flying on the islands. The 1,800 islanders to be allowed to retain their own form of government.

The possible deployment of an international peacekeeping force on the islands while a permanent solution is being worked out.

Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick, the United States representative at the United Nations, expressed the more hopeful mood prevailing in Washington during a television interview yesterday when she said: "There is a reasonable likelihood that a last-minute sort of resolution may be found to the crisis which will at least avoid war or bloodshed between the two parties."

Several factors have contributed to the more buoyant mood prevailing in Washington. It is felt that the extension of Mr. Haig's mission means that both Britain and Argentina are interested in a face-saving compromise which can avoid open hostilities.

Actions and statements by the Government in Buenos Aires are also taken as a sign that the Argentines, surprised by the strength of the British response to the island's seizure and the tough measures taken by Britain's main allies, want a negotiated settlement.

Similarly, officials have noted the relatively moderate tone of statements emanating from Buenos Aires. For example, Mr. Esteban Lakas, the Argentine Ambassador to Washington, appeared on

television today saying his country was very hopeful about a settlement and that Argentina might consider a truce while talks continue.

The British side has been less compromising, but again officials believe that the tone of remarks made by Mr. Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, on British radio and television during the weekend indicated that the British also were keen to see the dispute settled peacefully.

One remark he made has attracted particular attention. Asked about the British insistence that a settlement be acceptable to the Falkland residents, Mr. Pym suggested that their attitudes may have been altered by the trauma of the invasion.

Officials noted that a previous British plan to cede the islands to Argentina and then to lease them back for a certain number of years had failed largely because it had been opposed by the islanders.

Sir Nicholas Henderson, the British Ambassador, appeared on two of the main television networks' morning shows today, restating the British case and pointing to the large grain trade which Argentina enjoys with the Soviet Union. Other members of the embassy staff have also been appearing on other television and radio programmes.

One of them, Mr. Christopher Crabbe, was asked about the islands for Britain: their oil potential, their fishing resources, or their strategic value. He replied: "The most important thing for us is that they are British."

Mr. Alexander Haig flew out of a clear blue sky to land at Heathrow airport at 5.42 am, catching several United States Embassy aides and reporters unaware (Our Foreign Staff writes).

His aircraft was originally expected to land at 6.20 am. He looked exhausted when he made a short statement to waiting reporters on the tarmac, telling them that he had brought with him "ideas which have been developed on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 502".

He then sped off along deserted Easter Monday streets to the Churchill Hotel in Portman Square near Marble Arch in the large black Chrysler which he uses on trips to London. After freshening up and eating breakfast he set out for Downing Street where he was greeted at No 10 by Mrs. Margaret Thatcher 9.28 am. The Secretary of State, who looked less tired than when he arrived, and Mrs. Thatcher, who was wearing a business-like two-piece grey suit, exchanged greetings for the benefit of reporters without their customary smiles.

Just before Mr. Haig arrived, Mr. Francis Pym crossed Downing Street from a Foreign Office with a polite "Good Morning".



Walking the olive branch . . .

Inhospitable islands

Life is tough, even for Land Rovers

If British troops have to land in the Falkland Islands they will find a country which is less hospitable than the people, and one hardly designed for military operations.

The pitted 800-mile coastline provides plenty of inlets for beaching parties, provided that they can steer clear of the matted, rubbery seaweed called kelp which festoons the flat shores and explains the islanders' sobriquet of "kelpers".

But the same inlets are among the assorted hazards which make overland movement anxious and slow, particularly for the islanders themselves who, for an island community, own very few boats. The fact that they are not natural sailors may have something to do with the surrounding seas which are always rough and, to the east, quickly acquire a depth of 100 fathoms.

The water is shallower to the west where the South American continental shelf stretches from Argentina, and the narrow strait dividing the islands is only about six fathoms. But at no point and at no time do the Falklands resemble holiday islands in the sun.

There is a wry saying which the locals reserve for visitors: "If you don't like the weather just stay around for 10 minutes and it should get worse."

There is little snow or frost, but plenty of rain. Winds blow at an average of 20 miles an hour throughout the year and while there are calmer periods some of the time there are stormier seasons too. At this time of

the year there are about five gales a month. The roads in Port Stanley, where about half of the 1,800 islanders reside, are full of potholes.

Although the terrain is mainly flat, soldiers on foot would have to negotiate ravines with mud at the bottom.

Once a week, when the weather is what passes for fine, a light seaplane might land near one of the country settlements with mail. Otherwise, islanders communicate with each other by radio, exchanging family gossip over the air as their main recreation. The constraints placed by the Argentine garrison on their use of radios are thought to be among the restrictions they will most resent.

The runway at Port Stanley is a fairly rudimentary airstrip. Still, troops landing on the Falklands might find life there soft and easy if they have already visited South Georgia, 800 miles south-east, where conditions are sub-Antarctic, with icebergs rather than seaweed cluttering the shore and the mountaintops rarely visible.

All this awaits troops once they have reached the islands. Getting there can be still worse. One naval officer described a voyage from Montevideo to Port Stanley, on which the weather was so bad that his ship was two days late on a four-day trip, as among the most testing he had ever made.

Henry Stanhope

Only 10% against the use of force

Overwhelming support for the Government's stated Falklands policy and repugnance for the loss of life it might involve are contrasted in the following responses in a poll conducted last Thursday by Opinion Research for London Weekend Television's Weekend World programme.

Support for diplomatic means backed by force (figures represent percentages):

Strong support 61
Quite strong support 18
Neither support nor oppose 11
Strongly oppose 10
Don't know 1

Support a blockade, lasting at least six months:

Support 75
Oppose 7
Don't know 18

Support for sinking Argentine Navy:

Strongly support 48
Quite strongly support 10
Neither support nor oppose 10
Strongly oppose 12
Don't know 20

How many British forces' lives would you be prepared to see lost?

None 67
Under 100 7
Under 1,000 26
Whatever it takes 1
Don't know 2

Would you regard many islanders killed as a price worth paying?

Worth the price 31
Not worth the price 51
Don't know 18

If the islanders were prepared to accept Argentine rule rather than see their lives put at risk:

Island should nevertheless use military action 18
Island should negotiate 58
Island should abandon claim 19
Don't know 5

Voting intention:

Conservative 57
Labour 27
SDP/Liberal Alliance 16

Task force put on war footing in tropics

From John Witherow on board HMS Invincible April 12

Captains of several Royal Navy ships were meeting on board HMS Invincible today to coordinate exercises and bring the fleet to full readiness for war.

The captains of Invincible and the other aircraft carrier Hermes held a council of war last week but this latest meeting will include commanders of the other frigates and vessels in the task force.

Reviewing the situation, one high-ranking officer said: "The programme continues this week with more advanced and more coordinated exercises between the various ships. As each day goes by these efforts are more coordinated."

Among the scheduled exercises are feigned attacks by the carriers on one another and these may well now include defensive operations by the missile-carrying frigates.

Unconfirmed reports on the BBC radio news of signs of a diplomatic solution to the crisis were meanwhile greeted with some scepticism and a "wait and see" attitude.

"I'm cautiously optimistic," the officer said. "But as far as we are concerned, we press on and continue preparing for whatever the Government wants us to do."

Preparations on board the Invincible on Easter Monday against attack were the most intense since the anti-submarine carrier left Portsmouth over a week ago. The use of smoke canisters, thunderclashes and "scare bombs" in addition to a simulated air attack were designed to add an air of realism.

A klaxon over the tannoy at 9 am and the statement: "Action stations, action stations. Assume NBCD State One. Condition Zulu" announced the start of a four-hour exercise in which five enemy aircraft were said to be launching an attack.

The Tannoy announced that the ship's Harrier fighters had been scrambled to meet the aggressors and had put several "in the water" but one attacker had slipped through and fired an Exocet missile hitting the ship.

Firefighting teams using breathing apparatus had to make their way down darkened passageways filled with smoke as one-pound scare charges, normally used to deter divers, were dropped overhead to add realistic sound effects.

The Tannoy continued to announce the outbreak of fires elsewhere in the ship and the firefighting teams, watched by umpires, had to get there as fast as possible.

Commander Anthony Provest, the second-in-command, who first joined the ship, just before we sailed, described the exercise as "pretty severe" and said the crew would get the idea of the sort of damage the carrier would receive in action. Preparing the ship to withstand attack as best as possible is treated extremely seriously and one senior officer added: "There are many documented incidents of ships which didn't get it right and sank as a consequence, and here are others which got it right and were saved. The programme has been quite excellent. They've pulled their act together and indeed advanced in their state of training."

He said that flying off the old type of carriers had been an especially "nerve-racking and high-tension business" but the Harriers could land across the deck and did not always force the carrier to head into the wind during take-off. "It is a new era and a nice one," he added.

"We exercise all the time and start off in a very good state."

World viewpoint

Chileans weigh up Soviet connexion

Five-column headlines in Chilean newspapers on the Falklands dispute have emphasized the country's concern about the situation and the possibility of war (Flores Varas writes from Santiago).

Newspapers and magazines have extensively analyzed the situation over the long Easter holiday, and the conservative daily *El Mercurio* has suggested that the Soviet Union might become directly involved.

In its political analysis the paper stated that the unpredictable diplomatic moves of Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Argentine Foreign Minister, implied a serious break of that country's traditional links with the West and an approach to foreign powers which opened the way to foreign influences in the hemisphere.

The latest Argentine governments had had the economic power needed to supply and diversify their foreign relations and to win the confidence of many countries. "They have made those nations forget that (Argentina) has violated international law, disregarding

the decision of the British Crown in the Beagle arbitration and procrastinating in the case being mediated by the Pope."

"One might overlook the offensive conduct of disregarding the signature and seal of Her Majesty on the document containing the decision which recognized the Chilean right to the islands in the Beagle Channel, but it is not possible to condone the illegal occupation of the Malvinas nor dismiss political and juridical reaction in the face of the facts"; the paper said, affirming that the two issues were related.

Argentina was forgetting that the Pope had been waiting 16 months for the Argentine answer to his official proposal on the southern dispute with Chile. Argentina had also forgotten that it refused World Court arbitration in the Falklands dispute and that it threatened war in 1978 if Chile sought arbitration at The Hague.

Other Chilean newspapers have expressed concern regarding the economic implications and impact on Chilean foreign trade of a war zone near its borders. Chilean political analysts agree that Chile should act with extreme caution in order to capitalize on the event and to avoid errors of consequence.

The Russians yesterday stepped up their attacks of Britain over the Falklands, accusing the Conservative Government of being unable to assess the international situation realistically and banking after imperial greatness (Michael Binyon writes from Moscow).

The Soviet Union also strongly denied that the Russians were seeking advantage for themselves in the conflict between Argentina and Britain, and denounced Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, for saying on Saturday that the Soviet Union was encouraging Argentina in an act of violence.

Pravda's London correspondent, in his first substantive report on the 'fall', said the British Government was showing "an amazing headlessness of the just demands of the peoples of the developing countries". He said Britain had stubbornly refused to "implement United Nations resolutions on the decolonization of the Falklands and was deliberately delaying negotiations with Argentina."

The paper said the military and diplomatic stir going on in London was being accompanied by a "noisy chauvinistic campaign" in the British press with attempts to prove from opinion polls that the majority of the population supported military confrontation.

It said there was now full military cooperation between Britain and the United States, making the South Atlantic into a full-scale conflict between a developing country and the global strategic interests of the imperial powers.

Meanwhile, Tass said the Americans were pursuing their own interests in the affair, which could strain the situation in Latin America even further. It said many British politicians and organizations were demanding that the Government renounce the use of force in settling the dispute.

In its sharp criticism of Herr Genscher, Tass said his accusations were untrue and he was supporting imperialism by trying to reestablish colonial control in the islands using gunboat diplomacy.

Argentina is the Soviet Union's biggest trading partner in the Third World, and the Russians have expressed concern that the British naval blockade of the islands might disrupt vital Argentine exports of grain and meat to the Soviet Union.

Support for Buenos Aires has grown noticeably warmer in the past few days as the Russians have grasped the dimensions and implications of the conflict.

Mr. Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, has replied to Mr. Thatcher's request for full Japanese support against Argentina in the Falkland Islands dispute, according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman (Reuters reports from Tokyo).

The spokesman refused to disclose the contents of Mr. Suzuki's letter but Kyodo, the Japanese news agency, said he had refused to impose economic sanctions against Argentina. He was quoted as saying that Japan's position was that the dispute should be solved at the United Nations.

Earlier yesterday Japan warned Argentina that relations between the two countries, especially economic links, could be damaged unless Argentine troops were withdrawn from the islands in accordance with a Security Council resolution.

The warning was given by Mr. Yoshio Sakurachi, the Japanese Foreign Minister, to Señor Gabriel Nuncio Oliva, the Argentine Ambassador to Japan, ministry officials said.

A spokesman said Mr. Suzuki's letter would be delivered by the Japanese Embassy in London, and a copy was given to Sir Hugh Cortazzi, Britain's Ambassador to Japan.

South Africa denied that it signed a military pact with Argentina and other South American countries, according to Dr. Brand Fourie, Director General of Foreign Affairs and ambassador designate to the United States (Our Johannesburg Correspondent writes).

Reacting to weekend reports that a treaty had been in existence for nearly a decade, he said he had no knowledge of it. Such a treaty has long been mooted by South Africa and was given an urgent thrust when the Simonswep agreement was signed in 1976. The argument with the British withdrawal from the Simonswep base and the American Presidential ban on the use of port by United States warships, the South Atlantic nations should form their own defensive alliance.

Last year, Argentine warships visited Simonswep and General Mario Benjamín Menéndez, who has been appointed governor of the

Falkland Islands, was among 38 foreign generals who visited South Africa. The other visitors came from countries which have been named as signatories to the secret treaty: Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Taiwan and Israel.

Whitehall sources acknowledge the existence of such a treaty but say that there is doubt about how formal its structure is (Our Foreign Staff writes).

They confirm that the eventual aim is to create something similar to a South Atlantic version of NATO. The pact's existence is not a significant consideration in Britain's present action against Argentina, however, largely because the treaty is not fully ratified.

Correction
Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan were in "telegraphic communication" over the Falklands on March 31, not March 30 as stated yesterday.

Mediation by UN more likely

By Our Foreign Staff

As politicians and diplomats continue to feel their way towards a Falklands settlement, the possibility of a United Nations role in an eventual solution appeared to increase yesterday.

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, was due back in New York last night after a telephone appeal early on Sunday from Mr. Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State. Mr. Haig called from Buenos Aires before leaving for London.

Señor Pérez de Cuellar said that if Mr. Haig's diplomacy failed, "I hope we will find other ways. The United Nations has many ways of acting." He did not spell out any specific proposals but it is possible that United Nations peacekeeping role might be needed in the Falklands as part of a settlement.

Señor Pérez de Cuellar's reticence was reflected among most United Nations members, who are reluctant to put forth proposals while Mr. Haig's mission continues. One exception is Peru, which has urged an immediate truce of 72 hours by both Britain and Argentina to allow breathing space for a settlement.

Yesterday President José López Portillo of Mexico who supports the Argentine claim to the islands but opposes "the use of force in settling international disputes" whatever grounds were given to justify it, said that Argentina has a right to "decolonize" the islands.

He proposed a settlement "in line with the law". Señor López Portillo was referring to a United Nations resolution of 1965 which, he said, recognized "the right of the Argentine Republic to decolonize the Malvinas Islands (Falklands)". However, the resolution also upholds the islanders' right to a decisive voice in this issue.



The men in charge: Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, Commander-in-chief Fleet, and his staff yesterday at HMS Warrior, Northwood, Middlesex. Left to right: Vice-Admiral Peter Herbert; Major-General Jeremy Moore (Major-General Royal Marines Commando Force); Admiral Fieldhouse; Vice-Admiral David Halifax (Chief of Staff to C in C); Air-Marshal Sir John Curtiss (AOC No 18 Group, RAF); and Rear-Admiral Peter Hammersley (Chief of Staff, Engineering).

P & O prepare bill of millions

By Nicholas Timmins

P & O, which is likely to present the Government with a bill for several million pounds in compensation when the Falkland Islands crisis is over, said yesterday that adult passengers and children deprived of cruises have been very understanding over the Government's requisitioning of their ships.

"We have had no complaints at all directed at us," a spokesman for the shipping line said yesterday. "People appreciate our position and have been extremely understanding."

The 3,000 or so passengers due to go on cruises on the Canberra up to June 11, which have now been cancelled, have been offered the choice of a later booking on the Canberra, or a cruise on the Sea Princess, a luxury 28,000-tonne cruise

ship providentially brought to European waters from Australia for the first time, prior to Canberra being requisitioned. It is due to start sailing from Southampton in mid-May.

Its holidays are appreciably more expensive than those on Canberra, but while passengers will have to pay more if they transfer, P & O is offering discounts of between £50 and £200 on the normal price, depending on the length of cruise, if that option is taken.

Less lucky are children who have lost educational cruises on the Uganda. The 940 children on the current cruises are due to dock on Naples today, losing four days of a 14-day trip, when they and the 315 adults on board will be flown to Garwick, allowing the Uganda

to be converted in Gibraltar to a hospital ship.

They are being offered money back pro-rata for the lost days, and the Uganda's next cruise on April 17 has been cancelled. "For the children it is bad news," a P & O spokesman said. "The Uganda is the only ship of its kind in the world and is usually booked a long time ahead". P & O will decide this week how much further ahead to cancel cruises, and will work out what space may be available on future cruises as an alternative to refunds.

The requisitioning of the roll-on ferry the Elk has meant that P & O has had to re-route cargo through its other ports.

The shipping line said it has still to agree terms with the Government for the requisitioning of the ships.

OIL SHOWS LITTLE PROMISE

Washington, April 12. — Offshore oil exploration in the vicinity of the Falkland Islands has not disclosed any major reserves, according to a report today by Petroleum Information International, an oil industry publication.

In 1975 a United States Geological Survey report estimated the area's potential could total between 40 million and 200 million barrels of oil, but there has been little exploration, according to the weekly newsletter.

It said the most successful well in the area was drilled last year by Esso, 130 miles north-east of Rio Grande on the tip of Argentina. The well, one of 15 drilled by Esso, produced 3,000 barrels of oil a day but was rated non-commercial and abandoned. Reuter.

Britain's drink problem and the rivals who think they can cure it, by Caroline Moorehead

Are you drinking too much? How would you know if you were? If you can answer yes to two or more of the following, you have a good cause for anxiety.

- 1 Do you need to drink to give you confidence: are you the person who drinks before you get to the party?
- 2 Do you drink more than you did when you are alone, particularly when you are depressed, miserable or worried?
- 3 Do you start drinking earlier and earlier each day?
- 4 Do you find that you drink embarrassingly quickly and have finished your drink long before those around you?
- 5 Do you order yourself a double when the rest of the party are drinking singles, or do you order yourself a quick extra drink while collecting an order from the bar?

- 6 Do you order two bottles of wine when three of you sit down to lunch?
- 7 If you can answer yes to any of these questions, there is serious cause for alarm. These are danger symptoms.
- 8 Do you have an uneasy feeling that you are drinking too much; that you no longer have control over your drinking; that you can no longer take it or leave it?

- 9 Do you feel shame when you remember behaviour after a drinking session?
- 10 Do you conceal from your spouse or friends the amount you drink?
- 11 Do you have time off work because of drinking, or has your work performance suffered because of alcohol?
- 12 Do your family and friends express concern over the amount you drink?
- 13 Have there been family quarrels

- because of your drinking? Are you becoming difficult, irritable and testy after drinking?
- 14 Have you had an accident because of your drinking?
- 15 Has your sexual drive and ability suffered because of your drinking?
- 16 Do you find that your memory is getting worse? Have you ever had loss of memory after a heavy drinking session?

The unacceptable side of 'just one more drink'

"Being sober is fun" says a poster that hangs by the entrance to the offices of the anti-alcoholism group, ACCEPT, in part of what was once London's Western Hospital. Underneath two men are gazing out, laughing hilariously. The problem is that growing numbers of people each year don't find it much fun, preferring to risk the many psychological and physical disorders that come with alcoholism (liver damage, loss of memory, cirrhosis, hepatitis, heart illness and so on) to doing without drink.

It is now thought that there are 500,000 dependent drinkers in Britain, alone with a further million to 1.2m with serious drinking problems. The consumption of drink has in fact risen so dramatically throughout the world in the past 10 years that some doctors now speak of alcoholism as an epidemic, possibly even a cyclical one which, according to one analysis, is likely to peak in 1990. No one knows why the world has turned to drink: certainly the relative drop in cost of alcohol plays an enormous part, but so, say the experts, have advertising, extended licensing laws and the availability of alcohol in supermarkets.

Some aspects of modern alcoholism are particularly striking. Women, low drinkers until 10 years ago — except for at some moments during the past century — are now rising sharply. Alcoholism, which was five times more prevalent in men than in women only twice as common.

Alcoholics are also getting younger. Drinking among the young has not been very marked this century, except in New York where the Bellevue Hospital records for the turn of the century show

large numbers of teenage alcoholic inmates) and until recently Alcoholics Anonymous had virtually no young members. Their most recent survey, however, shows 11.2 per cent under 30. ACCEPT says that its clients' average age has fallen from between 40 to 60 five years ago to 25 to 37 today.

Where can an alcoholic go? As recently as 15 years ago a patient with a serious drinking problem would be offered an in-patient bed in which to dry out. If he refused to take it he was considered "insufficiently motivated" and shown the door. Since then, partly because of the influence of American research, and the feeling that six weeks in hospital does not teach people to cope with their normal lives sober (and turns them, instead, into "treatment junkies"), the emphasis has now swung towards skilled out-patient day care.

Here an alcoholic (the word alcoholism has in fact largely been abandoned in favour of the less pejorative sounding "alcohol misuse" or "dependency") is not merely helped to give up drink but undergoes a wide and supportive treatment of psychotherapy, designed to teach him to live without depending on drink. Heavy drinking, say the experts, cannot be viewed on its own: it has to be understood and treated in the context of the many physical, legal, marital and emotional problems of which it is part.

No doctor today questions the need for thorough counselling. Where there is disagreement is over the issue of abstinence. Must an alcoholic give up alcohol for ever? Yes, says the bulk of the medical profession: there is no return to safe drinking. No, say a few fans of

Controlled Drinking, pointing to former alcoholics surviving on two whiskeys a day. These reply the abstinence school, are exceptions, and probably not genuine addicts in the first place. Controlled drinking has a place — but only among people who have not yet become dependent.

Outside the medical services, running alongside and treated by them with a mixture of awe and disregard, are Alcoholics Anonymous, the vast, sprawling, godly organization which started a whole method of mutual help tactics, which have turned out with hindsight to be nothing other than respected psychological principles. Members are taught not to feel guilt, to set themselves small goals and to build up their own self esteem.

There is a newer and as yet tentative move towards prevention. ACCEPT, part of whose funding comes from industry, is run by an American management consultant called Charles Vetter. He has devised an early warning screening service for some of the 200 firms on his books, and sets out to catch about-to-be alcoholics before they have grown so dependent as to lose their jobs. He is not helped by the inherently hidden nature of the problem in that alcoholics are extremely loathe to declare themselves such until the point of no return has been passed.

Whether or not, as some doctors suggest, the epidemic is slowing down, vast efforts are now beginning to be made to check it. In France, there is a stylish advertising campaign promoting the beauties of a healthy, drink-free life, and in New York today the summer drink is said to be Perrier, ice and lime.



HOW IT ALL TOTS UP

- In Britain we are drinking:
 - 2 times more beer
 - 3 times more spirits
 - 5 times more wine
- In 1978 as a nation we spent £7500m on alcohol — more than on fuel and light and nearly as much as on clothes and shoes.
- Of the estimated 800,000 accidents that take place in homes each year, 65 per cent are caused either totally or largely by alcohol.
- Conviction for drinking and driving in England and Wales doubled between 1971 and 1978.
- 20,000 people are admitted to psychiatric hospitals annually for alcoholism. This has risen 25 times in 25 years and now accounts for 10 per cent of the total.
- Women are now drinking more than they did and problem drinking among women is approaching the male rate.
- The amount of alcohol consumed is the important factor: drinking only one type of alcohol; not mixing the grape and the grain; and other rules are irrelevant but the type of drink may alter the effect of the hangover.
- Women will develop symptoms of liver damage earlier and are less likely to show improvement when drinking is discontinued.
- Over-indulgence in alcohol results in damage to the nervous system, the heart, the liver, the gastrointestinal tract and the sexual organs.
- Moderate to heavy drinking can have an effect on the unborn child.
- After subjecting the brain to heavy alcohol for an unreasonable time, it will show atrophy, producing personality changes, such as irritability, aggression, paranoia, sloth and irresponsible behaviour. In the advanced stage of mental deterioration, patients may lose their memory completely, become demented and make up fantasies to compensate for failure to remember reality.
- Liver failure is difficult to spot in its early stages and can only be detected by laboratory investigations. The first sign may be a rapid falling-off of alcohol tolerance and patients will find they require smaller and smaller amounts of alcohol to become drunk.
- The commonest sign of chronic alcoholism is gastritis, giving rise to nausea and vomiting in the morning.
- Alcohol results in poor sexual performance — dryness in women and impotence in men.

Abstinence or control?

Of the two main schools of treatment for alcoholism which suffer from an appalling confusion over definition — abstinence is the dominant one. Research has shown overwhelmingly that drinkers who are heavily dependent on alcohol to survive in day to day life can never successfully switch to "social" drinking. Any compromise invariably leads to heavy drinking. The only ultimate cure is to stop altogether, having learned to live happily without the need for drink.

Within this school there are:

- Inpatient Alcoholic Dependence Units, of which there are 26 in Britain, at least one in each regional health authority. They have a total of some 700 beds and a long list of people awaiting admission. Treatment, which lasts three weeks to three months, includes various kinds of group therapy.
- Outpatient treatment, such as: (i) ACCEPT: a multidisciplinary team, dealing with all aspects of compulsive drinking, from the physical and psychological disorders that go with it, to providing a project for ex-alcoholics. Based in a wing in the now-disused Western Hospital in Hammersmith with a full-time staff of all 11 and 70 volunteers (some ex-alcoholics).

Funded 25 per cent by the DMS, the rest of their money comes from industry and donations. Treatment, which is free, lasts one day a week for two weeks, then once a week for up to two years.

(ii) The Maudsley Hospital in South London, where 300-400 people every year are given personal assessment for their particular misuse of alcohol, then a precise and again very personal programme of how to deal with it while attending the hospital as an outpatient.

- Hostels or "halfway" homes run by voluntary organizations, sometimes

together with local authorities, where people live in supportive communities and have to agree not to drink. At the end of 1978 there were approximately 61 hostels providing 800 beds mostly for the chronic homeless.

□ Alcoholics Anonymous, founded in 1935 in America by a New York stockbroker and an Ohio surgeon, now has over one million members in 104 countries. Only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking and an undertaking to remain sober and pass the AA message. Despite assertions to the contrary, has a strong Christian evangelizing image. Members adhere to 12 traditions and follow 12 steps, many of which have a reference to some greater "power".

Controlled Drinking is a fast-growing alternative to abstinence. It is a highly controversial school which argues that alcoholics can be taught to return to "sensible" drinking. Success rates questionable for all but drinkers who are not actually addicted to alcohol.

Drinkwatchers is the only controlled drinking programme running in Britain which attempts to catch heavy drinkers before they become dependent alcoholics. First group formed in September 1981. Clients are screened, then given a medical check up at Charing Cross Hospital, which is taking part in the experiment.

If deemed suitable, they are put on a one evening a week, for 12 weeks, programme in which they are taught to be aware of the alcohol content of drinks; to keep a drinking diary and to set themselves goals (less than three pints of beer a day or 6 glasses of wine); to master new skills (sip rather than gulp, alternate soft drinks with alcoholic ones; dilute generously; order half rather than full pints); to handle social pressures without relying on drink. Treatment costs £2.50 per session.

THE ARTS

Galleries: John Russell Taylor in Spain, Paddy Kitchen in London

A painter who never ceases to astonish and delight

Television Chance to reflect

"In the depths of a mirror, a tiny figure in blue, and behind him another, just visible in red, looking out at us... One is a self-portrait, but we don't know which. There is a secret weapon available to documentary-makers of the traditional sort, and it is called good writing. Nothing else could have sustained David Thompson's quixotic pursuit of art-historical will o' the wisp in *A Mirror in Time* (BBC2).

The Arnolfini marriage was just the start of the puzzle, which quickly revealed itself to be of the kind that scholars find satisfyingly insoluble. Hints, possibilities, comparisons, coincidences were all we had to piece together "the extraordinary story of the brothers who changed the capabilities of painting".

The story did not seem extraordinary, presumably because Thompson signally failed to piece it together. "There's so little evidence for what Van Eyck's art was like in the 1400s that we have to guess what kind of art he may have looked at..." Was this tall brown house his? When did he marry? Where was he born?

We were shown a map-mosaic which might possibly have resembled one he painted for a duke. We were shown a naked bride — seen in a mirror as part of a painting which was itself a detail of a painting done centuries later by someone else. Once, goaded beyond endurance by intractable fact, Thompson resorted to critical ju-jitsu: if a painting seemed out of character, that was because we underestimated his range.

Very nicely put.

El Greco de Toledo

Museo del Prado, Madrid

El Toledo de El Greco

Hospital de Tavera/Iglesia de San Pedro Martir, Toledo

The extraordinary thing about El Greco is that, the more you see of him, the more extraordinary he becomes. Somehow you never get used to him, and just when you think you have at least got his measure, he always manages to pull some further surprise on you. Nor do you get tired, even given his propensity for repeating his favourite compositions (or perhaps they were the favourites of his patrons) over and over again, there is always some new twist, some new insight, which keeps you ready for yet another series of *Apostles*, yet another *Holy Family* or *Expulsion from the Temple*. I can speak with particular feeling on this point because I have just been undergoing a total blitz of El Greco in Spain: not

only the ambitious Spanish-American exhibition *El Greco de Toledo*, credibly said to be the biggest and best ever, which is on at its first venue, the Prado, until June 6 (after which Washington, Toledo, Ohio — obviously! — and Dallas), but also the large counterpart exhibition in Toledo until June, *El Toledo de El Greco*, and the obligatory visits while in Toledo to El Greco's house and the Cathedral, and to *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz*, now admirably conserved and shown in an air-conditioned annex to the Church of San Tome.

If that did not bring on a severe attack of aesthetic indigestion, I do not know what would. And yet the astonishment is continuous and abiding. We all know, for example, that El Greco is supposed to be unclassifiable, modern. But even when you know that, the actuality of a painting like the large *Prospect and Map of Toledo*, with its boldly sketched bird's-eye view of the city, the bravely dramatic, foreshortened figures in the foreground and the angels tumbling arbitrarily about the sky, is breathtaking. If it had been painted yesterday we would all be delighted, but nobody would be surprised. The same, exactly, goes for Washington's wondrous *Laocöon*, a mysterious, dramatic and quite natural-

seeming composition (for all its proto-baroque intricacy) set, yet again, against a stormy view of Toledo. And as for the bold abstraction of the clocked figures in the haunting *Visitation* — well, how could it possibly have been painted in the first decade of the seventeenth century?

The great advantage of the Prado show is that it allows one, as never before, to chart for oneself the route by which El Greco arrived at this extraordinary conclusion. The great advantage of the Toledo show is that it gives one a clearer insight than ever before into the artistic world into which El Greco stepped when he settled in Toledo, just four centuries ago, how he found it and how he left it.

Like many great artists (though not necessarily all), El Greco got more interesting as he got older. The very earliest paintings in the Prado show are in fact quite unremarkable, even the first *Purification of the Temple* (before 1570), which has already most of the compositional elements so familiar from later versions, such as that in our own National Gallery. Everything is still a bit awkward and tentative, the composition disturbingly (because, it seems, unintentionally) lopsided, and the general impression is of something

vaguely in Veronese country, such as hundreds of minor masters of the day might have produced. Even when we get up to a painting as skilful as the *Mary Magdalen in Penitence* of 1580-85, which is already recognizable as an El Greco in its vertical elongation and its boldly expressionistic background, there is still something conventionally saccharine about the face and the attitude.

But by this time he had settled in Toledo. To judge by the numerous works of Juan Correa, the *San Juan*, the most important figure of the previous generation of Toledo painters, showing in the Toledo exhibition, it cannot have been much of a challenge: Correa is a perfectly respectable painter, but though he died in 1566 he could be a full century earlier than even early El Greco in style. Obviously El Greco must have been of an obsessively independent disposition, and the benefit, as being in, by European standards, something of a backwater must have been that he could do what he liked, without regard to what might be going on elsewhere, and impose himself on a public which had relatively little to measure him by.

Which he did with a vengeance. You would be

hard put to it to find anything as bold and simple and uncompromising in conception as the monumental remains overwriting in the first decade in Toledo. And by the time we get to the *Agony in the Garden* of the early 1590s (a composition also familiar from a version in our National Gallery, though shown here in a stunning realization from Toledo, Ohio) the transformation is complete.

From this moment on in El Greco's career it is difficult not to slip into a catalogue of wonders. Some of them quite unfamiliar, like the weird *Allegory of the Camaldolese Order*, with two conventional figures at the bottom and a large aerial view of the circular garden with the order's separate hermitages scattered about it up above. Others familiar, but none the less, like that of *Frav Hortensius Fair Paraclete*, not only speak with unparalleled directness across the centuries but manage impeccably the always precarious balance between achieving a degree of formal monumentality and preserving a true feeling of the man within the formal trappings. When El Greco's grandees are worldly, we know it when they are holy, we believe it. Though even the most beautiful of all *Saint Sebastians*.

You still have to go to Toledo to see *The Burial of*

the Count of Orgaz (too large or too fragile, presumably, to travel), which for all its familiarity in reproduction remains overwhelmingly in the original. And one of the world's great paintings. Also in the Toledo show you can see one of the most wonderful *Baptisms*, and some sculptures by El Greco, including a complex figure-composition very like something from one of his paintings, only in three dimensions, and a very peculiar pair of naked (rather than nude) figures supposed to be of *Pinotius and Pandora*, which even at this distance of time take one aback with their immediacy, intimacy and vulnerability.

And I have not even mentioned the portraits. Like everything else, they get stronger and more vivid as El Greco gets older. The later ones, like that of *Frav Hortensius Fair Paraclete*, not only speak with unparalleled directness across the centuries but manage impeccably the always precarious balance between achieving a degree of formal monumentality and preserving a true feeling of the man within the formal trappings. When El Greco's grandees are worldly, we know it when they are holy, we believe it. Though even the most beautiful of all *Saint Sebastians*.

on the American tour, the Prado is still probably the best place to see the show, especially bearing in mind all the uncatalogued delights. But it seems to me the most convincing tribute that, even after all the El Greco's I have seen in the last few days, I still feel ready and eager to dash off to Washington, Toledo or Dallas to see more.

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Frida Kahlo and Tina Modotti

Whitechapel

"The art of Frida Kahlo is a ribbon around a bomb", summed up André Breton after visiting her in Mexico in 1938. The bomb contained passion, pride and intolerable pain, and the bright ribbon was painted with an unerring intensity. While her husband, Diego Rivera, developed his celebrated murals depicting the entire history of Mexico, Frida Kahlo exposed her interior life and made surreal X-rays of her heart.

Her self-absorption was, to a great extent, dictated by her physical condition. At the age of 17 she had a severe road accident, which left her unable to walk for three years, and accounted for around thirty operations before her death in her mid-forties. Confined so often to bed (where, indeed, she first started to paint), she could seldom escape awareness of her body. At its most torment-

ing, this produced work like *The Broken Column*, in which she saw herself half-naked, a ruptured stone column in the fissure where her spine should be, and her torso bound by surgical straps while her flesh, including the face and breasts, was lightly pierced with scattered nails. But any notion that this image might seem a bathetic echo of a Renaissance St Sebastian or crucifixion is removed by the authority and toughness of Kahlo's stance and expression. The exhibition is dominated by her strong, mysterious face. Both in the complex, surreal compositions, and the more straightforward self-portraits, her thick eyebrows, which met in the middle like a child's drawing of a raven in flight, seem to dramatize the challenge in her eyes.

Intensely aware of her own appearance, she concealed her deformity and emphasized her Mexicaness by wearing Tehuana costume and heavy jewelry, and in some of the paintings these decorations are as much the subject of the picture as the woman herself. The tender side of

her nature perhaps showed most in her treatment of animals and plants. In one self-portrait a spider monkey's arm encircles her neck, and in *The Chick* a newly-hatched bird is dwarfed by a vase of blue flowers over which spiders have spread their webs, among which caterpillars and a cicada lurk. It was, however, her relationship with Rivera that engendered the most memorable paintings. Her portrait of them together two years after their marriage — she demure, he uneasily posed — has an ingenious air, which makes the impact of *A Few Small Snips* and *Self-Portrait with Cropped Hair*, painted later, all the more shocking. The first represents her feelings after Rivera was unfaithful to her, and shows a man making random incisions into a woman's body with a pair of scissors. The second was painted after he left her for a time, and shows her sitting defiantly in a chair, wearing a man's suit, her long black hair in shreds across the floor.

These are not stunning paintings in a painterly sense, but they are

stunning both as images and as a method of relating intense passages of autobiography. Although Kahlo received no formal training, she soon developed a technique that entirely suited her subject matter and which has much more impact than the style of the naive painters she superficially resembles.

Sharing the upstairs gallery at the Whitechapel (until May 2) with Kahlo is an exhibition of photographs by Tina Modotti, an Italian whose nomadic life included long spells in Mexico. The formal, classical style of photography which she learnt from the American photographer Edward Weston was extended but never rejected, during her involvement with Mexican politics. Rivera and Orozco commissioned her to record their murals, and she remained in Mexico for several years, photographing both human subjects such as *Misery* (two derelict women) and *Hands of a Puppeteer* and geometrical compositions of emblematic subjects, in *Banana-Lier, Guitar and Corn-cob*. They are very fine photographs indeed.

Kahlo's defiance in "Self-Portrait with Cropped Hair"

Michael Church



Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

TREMBLING THRONES OF ARABY

The war between Iran and Iraq has from the start been more ideological than territorial — a war between secular Arab nationalism and revolutionary Shia Islam. Each side in the other's eyes represents an absolute evil — "Persian racism in a religious mask" pitted against a "megalomaniac unbeliever and agent of American imperialism". President Saddam Hussein of Iraq hoped to avert the threat of Shiite revolution in his own country by bringing down the crisis-ridden, disorganised Iranian regime with one devastating blow. Ayatollah Khomeini responded by urging all Muslims "to struggle against the Baghdad regime and to help the Iraqi people free themselves from Baathist oppression".

The latter denouement now seems nearer than the former. The Ayatollah's government has withstood the Iraqi onslaught and is on the counter-offensive. Mr Hussein is looking with obvious desperation for a face-saving peace, and not finding it. The Iranian leaders are saying, for the moment, that they will respect Iraq's frontiers, but they still refuse to negotiate with the aggressor. It looks as though they are waiting to see if Mr Hussein will be finished off by his own people, hoping that the army which he sent into a costly and futile war will now turn and get rid of him.

President Assad of Syria is hoping that, too. He has felt the blade very near his neck in the last three years, and although on the face of it his domestic enemies — the Muslim Brotherhood — have more in common ideologically with Iran, he knows that it is from his fellow-Baathists in Baghdad that they get moral and material support. The enmity between rival factions of the Baath party surpasses that between Arab and Persian, or even between secularism and militant Islam. Thus Mr Assad and the

Ayatollah have joined forces against their common enemy in Baghdad. Syria has not sent troops — she could ill spare them — but she has tightened the noose around Mr Hussein's neck by closing the Syrian-Iraqi border, and now also the pipeline through which Iraqi oil reaches the Mediterranean.

If Mr Hussein falls, what next? That is the question being anxiously asked in other Arab capitals west and south of Baghdad. Could the humiliated Iraqi army stabilise the situation and end the war, or would it simply open the way to an Islamic republic, Iranian style, dominated by the Shiite *mujtahids* of Najaf and Karbala? And would the contagion stop there, or would it spread to Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and the eastern province of Saudi Arabia — all areas where Shi'ism, like oil, is a subterranean force now bubbling to the surface?

King Hussein of Jordan is worried, too. He must be wondering now if he made the right decision when he switched sides in the Syrian-Iraqi quarrel in the late 1970s. At the time Iraq seemed to have a good deal more to offer, but now his namesake's friendship is becoming something of a liability. Yet it is too late to go back. The "Shah of Jordan" (as the Iranians call him), whose name is stamped on the crates of ammunition captured by the Iraqi forces in Dezful, has no hope of making friends with the revolutionary rulers of Iran. Nor could he hope to gain anything from further upheavals in the Gulf. He and his fellow monarchs have close ranks against the revolutionary tide, and hope that Iraq can be saved.

Where can they look for help, if not to the largest Arab state, which already provides them with so much of their brain power, and which is still the leading military power in the Arab

world: the state which, three years ago, they hounded out of the Arab League for its temerity in making peace with Israel? Egypt is not only about to recover the last segment of its occupied territory, but is also in the process of making its re-entry — not triumphant but on its own terms — into an Arab world that cannot, after all, do without it, just as President Sadat always predicted. While Iraqi missions visit Cairo to discuss arms supplies and other forms of support, an Egyptian delegation plays a key role at a non-aligned conference on the Palestinian in Kuwait; and Egypt, not so long ago all but expelled from the non-aligned movement by the concerted Arab drive, has now been specially asked by Iraq to help prepare the non-aligned summit to be held in Baghdad in September.

Should the West join in this general rallying of pro-Western Arab states behind Iraq? The answer must surely be no. Mr Saddam Hussein is a sanguinary dictator, not worth saving in himself, and any attempt to save him may aggravate our problems with the oil companies. Yet one should surely also bear in mind that the oil producers must now be in a more accommodating frame of mind; and that we badly need their cooperation, not only over energy supplies but also in working out more adequate answers to Third World problems.

It would therefore seem to me that, instead of simply making Opec sweat, there is urgent need for high-level discussions with Opec countries (especially those in the Gulf), and between the oil companies and our own Government, to make sure that short-term economic decisions are consistent with our overall strategy.

THE STATE'S DUTY TO EDUCATE

One man's social cause is another man's bread and butter. While most of us were making what we could of a drab holiday yesterday, the National Union of Teachers were hard at work in Scarborough at their annual conference, facing the prospect of another year of falling educational spending and employment, and asking themselves, in the words of Mr Fred Jarvis, their general secretary, "How can I defend my job and the service in which I work?" (in that order). It is a natural preoccupation, and some of the more lurid flights of pedagogic indignation at the conference can fairly be discounted. But Mr Jarvis and other delegates were able to make effective play with the report of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, which was published, conveniently for them, just a week earlier.

The inspectors, at whose approach headmasters tremble like fourth-formers, have a reputation for a sober and merciless integrity. Their reports on the state of our schools steadfastly avoid anything resembling the sensational or the politically opportunistic. A report affirming, as last week's did, that "the majority of schools are still well found and the majority of pupils still

adequately served" makes the blood run cold with speculations about the condition of the minority in each case.

As delineated as an old-fashioned end-of-term report, the document sets out the implications. Most schools and authorities are struggling hard to make the best of things. But disparities of provision between one local education authority (LEA) and another are growing, problems caused by the declining number of pupils are intensifying, and short ages of books and materials and deficiencies in the upkeep of buildings are becoming more acute. The pupils who suffer most are the least able and those in areas of the country already afflicted by the sharpest disadvantages.

Naturally the inspectors leave it to others to express concern about social problems being laid up for the future, about the unemployment, and about justice. But in the definition they supply for their term "satisfactory" (a standard which few LEAs succeed, and some fail to attain, at any point) they clearly make allusion to the statutory duty under the 1944 Education Act, and that of the Secretary of State, to ensure,

in the courts if necessary, that those duties are fulfilled.

Of course, education cannot be excluded from the necessary general requirement to cut public expenditure. It is clear from the report that some authorities still fail to do enough to ensure that money is not wastefully spent. Falling rolls have made it possible to cut education hard, and will make further cuts inevitable, but the limits to that process in terms of inflexibility and inequality of provision are already in sight. If disparities are becoming unacceptably wide, the Government has a duty to give a clearer indication of what it regards as acceptable provision than the bare terms of the statute provide. Councils wishing to safeguard their cherished discretion in educational matters should take care that this discretion is not being irresponsibly employed. As for the teachers, who for the most part have been protected successfully from redundancies, they should bear in mind that money spent on salaries cannot be spent on other aspects of educational provision. These are matters which deserve close investigation when the Commons Select committee on education starts its hearings next week.

Surgeon's hungry allies

From Mr Leslie J. Latham
Sir, Readers perhaps have now earned respite from the less jolly aspects of the busy leech, *Hirudo medicinalis*. At least it should be spared confusion with its nasty but remote cousin of the *Haemadipsa* family which so plagued our Burma forces.

What is today forgotten is the fame our clinical leech always enjoyed as a weather prophet, as the insect is notoriously sensitive to the onset of barometric changes. As recently as 1897 this was noted by the Inner Temple's barrister-meteorologist George Chambers in his weather treatise, when the Victorian dedication to leeches was as fashionable as that to antimony pills.

He notes that in calm weather they remain at the bottom of their bottle, but when a change is afoot they crawl upwards; often many hours in advance. Before any storm onset they are at their most restless, rising up the glass quickly. Only when the change actually occurs do they quieten and descend their bottle. When rain or wind is to be protracted they remain long at the surface, and will even leave the water, crawling up the side of the bottle.

Perhaps the big cover houses who have to lay off pluvial insurance in this unpredictable island would do well to revive the leech bottle, as should also Citizen Ladbrooke?

Yours faithfully,
L. J. LATHAM,
49 Scarsdale Villas,
Kensington, W8.

A longer view on Middle East oil

From Mr A. R. K. Mackenzie

Sir, Few people would deny that it is important to have a coherent strategy for such a vital area as the Middle East; nor that such a strategy means that our political, cultural and economic policies should all be moving in the same direction. But are they?

On the one hand, we go to consider pains to improve our political relations in the area and to counter such follies as *Desch of a Princess*. Yet as soon as oil prices fall we apparently lose all interest in agreements with the chief oil producers and say, as did our distinguished contributor Christopher Johnson on April 6, "Let us make hay while the sun shines."

Surely this is very short-sighted? As your contributor acknowledged, either world economic recovery or the next Middle East crisis could trigger off a new oil price rise very rapidly. Can it therefore be in our interest to undercut or alienate Sheikh Yamani? Are we likely to get someone better in his place?

In raising such questions one has no intention of appeasing Opec. Nor does one ignore the short-term stocking problems of the oil companies. Yet one should surely also bear in mind that the oil producers must now be in a more accommodating frame of mind; and that we badly need their cooperation, not only over energy supplies but also in working out more adequate answers to Third World problems.

It would therefore seem to me that, instead of simply making Opec sweat, there is urgent need for high-level discussions with Opec countries (especially those in the Gulf), and between the oil companies and our own Government, to make sure that short-term economic decisions are consistent with our overall strategy.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. K. MACKENZIE,
4 Buckingham Place, SW1.
April 6.

From Professor H. W. Singer

Sir, Some of us have been advocating in *The Times* and elsewhere a "global bargain" of Opec. Two key elements of this bargain would be an offer to Opec of inflation-proof investments for their surpluses in exchange for a reduction in oil prices for the poorer developing countries.

May I now point out that, in the recent Budget, we have offered Opec quite unconditionally and unilaterally inflation-proof investments for their surpluses through the new indexed gilts which will soon be freely available to all investors, including Opec. Thus what has been advocated as a bargain with Opec has now turned out to be a bargain for Opec.

Is it too late to discuss with Opec a counterpart to this unilateral concession? At the moment obviously this concession is only made by the United Kingdom but, if results of a large diversion of Opec funds to London, one imagines that it may not be long until other countries offer similar facilities to Opec on an equally unilateral and unconditional basis. Then the chance of using this concession as a basis of a broader bargain with Opec would have been lost.

It may be thought that at this very moment, when oil prices are on the slide and Opec is in some disarray, the need for a global bargain has disappeared. I believe, however, that there would be a very shortsighted view.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. SINGER,
The Institute of Development Studies,
University of Sussex,
Brighton,
Sussex,
March 31.

Health scrutinies

From Mrs M. E. Parsons

Sir, In her article about health scrutinies (April 2) Annabel Ferriman refers to the possibility of raising extra money for the health service by charging insurance companies more efficiently for the hospital care of traffic victims.

The Royal Commission on Civil Liability and Compensation for Personal Injury (the Pearson Commission) looked at this question, and paragraphs 1082-1085 of volume one of their report deals with road accident treatment costs. In paragraph 1084 it is stated that the amount currently recovered by the National Health Service... is probably less than 5 per cent of the costs incurred, which amounted to nearly £50m in 1976 and in paragraph 1085: "We are in no doubt that the present provisions for recovering the cost of treating road accident victims are ineffective..."

The commission's report was published in March, 1978. Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH PARSONS,
Secretary to the Pearson Commission,
18 St James Mansions,
West End Lane, NW6.
April 3.

Gas supply

From Professor S. C. Littlechild

Sir, Jonathan Davis (*Business News*, March 29) refers to the difficulty faced by the oil companies in competing with British Gas, which has all the early supplies tied up under long-term contracts.

One device for overcoming this problem would be for the Department of Energy to purchase these contracts at a price related to the price paid by British Gas, then to auction the

Resident's account of Falklands action

From Captain E. P. Carlisle

Sir, May I refer to your report from Christopher Thomas on April 10 and the letter of Mr Rex Hunt, in your paper today (April 12).

I returned to Britain on Saturday under the protection of the Swiss Diplomatic Corps as after freely leaving the Falkland Islands on Thursday, I had been subjected to six hours of intensive questioning and a minute search of my person and all belongings and papers by the Argentinean security services at both Comodoro Rivadavia and Buenos Aires. My reasons for returning to this country were that I believed that I could give information to the Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence about conditions and the situation of the islands and the up-to-date opinions of the inhabitants, which would help defuse the present situation and reduce the possibility of war between Argentina and Great Britain.

Since my arrival my views and motives have been widely misrepresented and there has been a deliberate attempt to discredit me.

After many years of patient and inconclusive diplomatic exchanges and to distract attention from their troubles at home the Argentine military Government invaded the islands on June 2, 1982, and the Governor of the correct action would have been to surrender the garrison in the face of force majeure to save expected loss of life.

The Governor chose to declare a state of emergency, confine the population to their homes on pain of arrest, and mobilise the local defence force of about 30 men and about 60 Royal Marines. A battle took place for about an hour in which some thousands of rounds of small arms fire were expended, whereupon a truce was arranged and the Governor surrendered.

There were no British casualties and practically no damage done to Government House around which the action took place. One Argentine soldier was killed (the island has been a military funeral in Argentina) and, it is believed, one injured. Mr Hunt has greatly exaggerated the number of casualties inflicted. The Argentines have thus been able to claim a military victory which would otherwise have been denied them.

No preparations have been made to mine the three approach roads or to enable the local

Geological disposal of nuclear waste

From Dr T. J. G. Francis

Sir, May I correct some misconceptions about the dumping of radioactive waste in the oceans put forward by your correspondent, Mr Dawson (April 2)?

Work carried out from the research vessel *Farnol* by scientists of this institute did include surveys of possible disposal sites for radioactive waste, correctly reported by your Science Editor on March 30. This work was part of a larger programme of feasibility studies into the ocean disposal of high-level radioactive waste (HLRW) being carried out by this institute under contract to the Department of the Environment. Similar work is being conducted by the USA, France, the Netherlands, Canada and Japan, and is co-ordinated internationally through the Seabed Working Group of the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD.

In citing the antiquity of many navigational charts still in use, Mr Dawson draws attention to one of the problems facing oceanographers engaged in such feasibility studies — the sparsity of data relating to many areas of the ocean floor. An appropriate part of the early phase of this research, therefore, is to produce high-quality maps of areas deemed worthy of further study. The equipment used in making such maps includes a range of acoustic instruments (echo sounders, seismic profiling apparatus, etc.) and is so sophisticated that it tells us about the morphology of the seabed but provides information on the nature and thickness of the sediments. This was the type of work being carried out on *r. v. Farnol*.

Mr Dawson is wrong, however, in considering that the complexity of water motions within the world's oceans negates our efforts. The reason why the oceanic option for HLRW disposal is still worth pursuing is because its effectiveness depends far less on the properties of the sediments beneath. The most plausible form that such a disposal might take involves the burial of waste canisters some tens of metres beneath the sea floor.

Effectiveness of this method depends on the effectiveness of the sedimentary barrier between the waste and the sea itself. Thus oceanic disposal of HLRW is, in fact, a form of geological disposal, analogous to methods of disposal on land being explored in a number of countries. Since most of the world's surface is covered by ocean, the feasibility of geological disposal cannot be properly evaluated without including marine geology.

In conclusion, radioactive waste exists. Safe methods of storing or disposing of it need to be found. Burial within the sediments of the deep ocean floor is a disposal option which we would be foolish to ignore and which could well prove to be the optimum method of containing this dangerous material.

Yours faithfully,
T. J. G. FRANCIS,
Head of Geophysics,
Institute of Oceanographic Sciences,
Brook Road, Wormley,
Goldam, Surrey.

Compulsory treatment

From the President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

Sir, Your admirable leader (Limits of compulsory treatment, March 31) rightly singles out consent to treatment as a crucial issue in the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill. Although many aspects of the Bill have found favour with the Royal College of Psychiatrists, members are seriously worried by the inclusion of medication in Clause 4. Except in emergency, it will be necessary to detain patients who refuse tablets or injections, to obtain a second psychiatric opinion from a doctor nominated by the new Mental Health Act Commission. This will appear to be a dangerous precedent to induce sleep; to tranquillise agitated patients who may be confused, hallucinated or deluded; to combat severe depression with its associated suicidal impulses and self-neglect.

Practising psychiatrists can envisage many situations where the new requirements will generate inordinate delay in bringing relief to disturbed and distraught patients. Provisional estimates indicate that the need for second opinions under the medication stipulations will be very considerable and will make substantial demands on psychiatric manpower.

The modern practice of psychiatry in open wards of psychiatric hospitals and in general hospitals brings with it the need to act swiftly in the treatment of disturbed patients. Bureaucratic delay may not only put patients at risk, but may lead to an increase in the use of closed wards or even to a reluctance to accept detained patients who may then be diverted to police cells or even prison.

Yours faithfully,
KEN RAWNSLEY, President,
The Royal College of Psychiatrists,
17 Belgrave Square, SW1.
April 6.

Numerical advantage

From Mr A. K. Galloway

Sir, I suspect that the BBC dates its programmes with Roman numerals in order to make it more difficult to spot the repeats.

Yours etc.,
A. K. GALLOWAY,
101 Ardgowan Road, SE6.
April 6.

Politics and police

From Councillor Neville C. Goldrein

Sir, I was interested, and concerned, to read Lady Simon's letter on the matter of police (April 1). There is no anomaly in police authorities having two thirds of their members political and one third magistrates. The police involvement is with law and order and so it is reasonable, and was so considered by the legislature, that a proportion of the input should be from quasi-judicial members, being magistrates.

It is a fact that in Merseyside the dominant Labour Party in the original Metropolitan County Council, up to 1977, originated the practice of treating the magistrates as part of the opposition when allocating the seats on the Police Committee. They did not, according to Lady Simon's assertion, follow an existing practice as the metropolitan counties were new and this was an opportunity to start with a clean sheet.

The magistrate members are just as important as the political members and it is in no way essential that the controlling political party should have overall control of the police authority. Had this been the intention, then magistrate members could have been specifically stated in the Act to be non-voting.

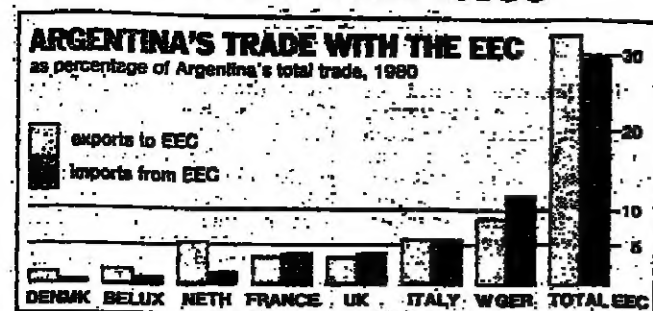
When the Labour Party resumed control in May, 1981, it immediately reverted to the original scheme so that whilst the Conservatives have over 25 per cent of the members of the county council they only have three members on the Police Committee.

The magistrates were introduced, I am sure, to be a proper safeguard against the exercise of improper political interference. I do not suggest for one moment that politics should be banned from police, but I firmly believe that the police should not be pawns in the political game. The duty of the police authority is to preserve law and order and not to combine that with political advantage, or the support of political philosophies which are shared in many instances by only a minority of the population the police force serves.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
NEVILLE GOLDREIN,
Leader of the Conservative Group,
Merseyside County Council,
PO Box 95,
Metropolitan House,
Old Hall Street,
Liverpool.
April 1.

BUSINESS NEWS

Sanctions will bite



The EEC's trade sanctions could affect Argentina significantly because it accounts for roughly a third of Argentina's total trade. Half of the country's \$2,550m (£1,440m) exports to the EEC during 1980 consisted of foodstuffs such as beef and a quarter of raw materials such as leather. Imports mostly machinery and manufactured goods, totalling \$3,080m. West Germany took 9 per cent of Argentina's exports and accounted for 12 per cent of her imports. The comparable figures for Britain were 34 per cent and 4 per cent.

Opec meeting postponed

A follow-up committee of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has put off a meeting scheduled for next week in Vienna because the large oil companies have stopped putting pressure on Nigeria, the Saudi Press Agency said yesterday.

Pressure off the pound

Hopes that Mr Haig's shuttle diplomacy will bear fruit took some of the pressure off sterling in overseas foreign exchange markets yesterday. The pound, which had closed at \$1.7580 in London and \$1.7550 in New York before the weekend, traded slightly higher in the Far East yesterday and reached \$1.7655 in early New York dealing.

BL sales double in five countries

BL's sales have doubled in the five main continental markets (Italy, France, Germany, Belgium and Holland) led by the Austin Metro and the launch of the Triumph Acclaim. Total BL car sales in these countries last month were \$395, compared with 4,460 in March 1981. Italian customers bought 2,629 Metros, the best ever month in a continental market.

\$10m steel deal

Improved cost-competitiveness at British Steel's Port Talbot plant has helped to win a \$10m contract to supply 25,000 tons of slabs to the Kaiser Steel Corporation, in the United States, with the prospect of more substantial business from the same customer for BSC Strip Mill Products.

Factory to close

The SCM Corporation is closing its golfball typewriter factory in Glasgow on June 30, with the loss of 190 jobs. The company's announcement follows last week's announcement of the impending closure of SCM's typewriter plant in Toronto.

THE WEEK AHEAD

RTZ faces big setback

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 580.3 down 1.0
FT 100 66.76 down 0.35
FT All Share not available
Bargains 16,052

Thursday's close

Both Bank of Scotland and Taylor Woodrow should show a comfortable advance in taxable profits with final dividends due this week, but there is a risk of a big profit setback for mining giant Rio Tinto Zinc.

At the half year stage, pre-tax profits fell 41 per cent to £173m, although the dividend was held, and that results are expected to show a fall from £507m to around £370m pre-tax.

The second half should see some improvement from the metals mining business, with CRA, the group's 55 per cent owned Australian subsidiary, likely to benefit from firmer metal prices.

RTZ shares have slipped back from a 1981 peak of 633p to 412p despite the prospects of above average growth in the eighties as a result of higher commodity prices and volume gains from the use of spare capacity, this level is well below the level of the shares at the half-way stage, when most analysts

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,234 down 25.88
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index 1,206.86 up 19.84
New York Dow Jones Industrial average 842 up 6.0
Thursday's close

ECONOMIC VIEW

The key factor for the economy this week will be developments over the Falklands. Provided negotiation seems a more likely path than warfare, the authorities will have a much better chance of stabilizing sterling without a rise in interest rates.

In terms of statistics, today brings the central government borrowing requirements for March, a figure that should have been helped by the collection of more back-tax owing from last summer's civil servant's dispute. Tomorrow sees how the building societies fared in the month March of National Savings. Thursday brings the February industrial production figures, which will be looked at for signs of recovery after the weather affected figures for December and January.

Also that day come the 'left' banking and money supply figures for the month to mid-March, the point of interest here will be the extent of the rise in the bank lending to the private sector.

Job fears as oil rig orders decline

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The value of orders from new North Sea oil developments fell by more than 15 per cent last year, from £2,380m to less than £2,000m, figures to be published shortly by the Government are expected to show. Another decline is likely this year amid growing fears that hundreds of jobs in the offshore construction industry will be lost unless there is an unexpected rise in demand.

The fall in the value of offshore orders reflects the drying up of new North Sea field developments in the present harsher climate of falling oil prices and what the oil companies claim is a 'strategic' decline in the industry. Twenty fields are in production, and another five are due on stream by 1984. But no new developments have been started in the last two years, and many companies are re-evaluating their potentially economic oil fields.

Leading figures in the platform and module construction industries left Mr Hamish Gray, the Minister in charge of North Sea oil at the Department of Energy in no doubt at an industry dinner last week of their gloomy outlook. One employer, Lewis Offshore, issued 90-day statutory redundancy notices to its 400 workers at Stevenage last week, and other companies are expected to follow suit in the coming months.

The outlook is bleak, according to Mr George Maine, business development manager at William Press; and outgoing chairman of the Module Constructors Association. 'There will be plenty of redundancies in the next few months, there seems little doubt about that'.

The fall in the value of orders to less than £2,000m compares with the peak year of 1979 when the orders

Cable TV survey ordered

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The Cabinet Office is to commission a survey of the cable television industry in the United Kingdom. The survey is to be carried out by the Cable Television Industry Association, which is a joint venture of the BBC, BICC, and Eurovision. The survey is to be completed by the end of the year.

This latest study is being prepared by CIT Research and Communications Studies and Planning of London and its findings are to be published in October at the same time as the Government is expected to respond to the report on cable systems published on March 22 prepared by the Cabinet Office by the Information Technology Advisory Panel report which was funded by 21 different organizations interested in a range of opportunities offered by cable television.

The CIT study which will be carried out in Britain, West Germany, France, the Netherlands and Belgium, will devote 30 per cent of its \$500,000 budget to consumer research.

A new battle in the £10m baby food market is about to break out. Robinson's, part of Reckitt & Coleman, is preparing to re-launch a reformulated and extended dry baby food range in the summer. Promotional spending will jump from £250,000 last year to £1.5m this and production capacity at Robinson's Norwich factory is being increased by 30 per cent.

Robinson's invented baby food with dry ingredients in the last century. Queen Victoria used the company's groats and barley but has faced a rearguard action ever since.

In the £11m meal and dessert sector - the rest of baby foods are accounted for by milk-based products - Heinz is no clear market leader with 40 per cent market share by value, with Robinson's at just under 20 per cent.

The Heinz formula to attract mothers was fully prepared baby foods, known as the wet sector with the foods packaged in cans and jars. Gerber added to the competitive drive of the wet products, but pulled out of the British market in 1979, mainly to Heinz's advantage. The dry sector was driven

back to barely half the market by volume. But technological advances now mean a company like Robinson's can produce dry formulations which produce baby foods close to the wet products in texture and taste, claims Mr Roger Munby, marketing director of Reckitt's food and wine division.

From 52 per cent in 1979, the dry sector has now gone to 60 per cent of the baby food market by volume. That is a 14 per cent market share by value, reflecting the traditionally higher prices of the fully prepared products.

Hopes rise for overseas expansion in Britain

US companies ready to invest

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Several big United States companies are considering further investment in Britain. Encouraged by the progress on the industrial front over the past two years, a number of companies are considering expansion while others may make their initial investment.

Britain remains the second choice for foreign investment by United States companies after Canada. The book value of the investment is estimated at £28,000m.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Industry Secretary, who has recently returned from a visit to the United States promoting the United Kingdom as a location for manufacturing

investment, especially in the high technology sector, is optimistic.

Companies said to be considering new investment include American Can, Alcoa, Raytheon and Timex-Bowes all of which have existing United Kingdom facilities. Tandem Computers is a company which may establish itself in Britain.

The Industry Department is keen to build on the already significant base of United States investment - there are 1,000 United States companies with plants in Britain and although hopeful of securing additional spending was recently given a setback to its hopes.

Mr Jenkin's confidence is based on talks he had with

United States banker and industrialists. 'They see this country as pulling itself round and at last heading in the right direction and having come through the recession with managers being able to manage, productivity being increased and pay moderation', he said.

The Industry Secretary said that the United States business community recognise the improvements which had been made in overall levels of efficiency, reducing overmanning, improving production methods and were aware of a new mood of realism at all levels of industry.

Sales fall but profits rise at Pergamon

By Drew Johnston

Pergamon Press, the printing and publishing group privately owned by Mr Robert Maxwell's family trusts, has announced an increase in pretax profits from £4.5m to £5.7m for the year to December 1981.

The results, which do not include Pergamon's share of the losses at British Printing and Communications Corporation, show that profitability almost doubled - from £3.7m to £6.9m - in the group's publishing business. But losses in the other two main activities, printing and dealing in securities, increased, printing from a loss of £262,000 to £621,000, and dealing to a loss of £661,000 from a profit of more than £1m last year. Sales were down to £71m from £110m.

BPPC, in which Pergamon has a 77 per cent stake, announced last week that it had slashed last year's £11.2m loss to a loss of only £1.2m for the year to January 2, 1982. In the second half, BPPC recorded a £6.9m profit, though it also received £3.2m from Pergamon in return for using its tax losses to offset against Pergamon's profits.

Pergamon said further substantial payments will be made to BPPC in respect of its 1982 profits.

Pergamon's results include a 40 per cent share of closure costs amounting to £1.2m from two subsidiaries of its associate company Thomson Printers.

It said measures have been taken to eliminate losses from its printing division companies.

Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman, said a dramatic improvement in publishing profits had been achieved in spite of the continued world recession, 'and after charging approximately £600,000 on the group's expenses in the fields of electronic publishing, computerized information storage and retrieval and related activities'.

He said that during 1981 his group spent £10m on buying the majority in BPPC, £1.6m on trade investments and £2m on capital equipment.

Since the introduction of the new Department of Industry has commissioned consultants to make detailed studies of the companies involved in production of cold-rolled strip and bright bars.

According to their recommendations it is likely to swallow up a considerable part of the £22m allocation but it is thought unlikely that the Department of Industry will be able to persuade the Treasury to make additional funds available.

However, ministers have not ruled out the possibility of promoting further restructuring.

Textiles stay gloomy

By Our Financial Staff

The British textile and clothing industry is a long way from recovery, according to the latest, and more than usually gloomy, quarterly review from the Textile Statistics Bureau.

Even improved domestic demand has only increased the volume of imports, the review says.

The seasonally adjusted index of textile production is estimated to have fallen marginally in the last quarter of 1981, finishing 2 per cent below the previous year's level.

The number employed in cotton and allied textiles in December 1981 was 4,400 fewer than in September, and 23,000 fewer than in December 1980 - equivalent to a 6.5 per cent decline over the year.

The trading deficit in textiles and clothing widened sharply from £110m in the fourth quarter of 1980 to £264m in the same period of 1981.

Munby: he aims for 40 per cent of the market

Trucks market may be set for recovery

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's badly depressed market for new trucks is showing strong indications of an upturn, with the leading manufacturers predicting a rise in sales of between 20 and 30 per cent compared with 1981.

The increasing business may not be sufficient, however, to restore profitability to a sector which has experienced one of its worst periods of declining demand. Sales of heavy lorries in the United Kingdom plummeted last year to their lowest level for 40 years.

Latest figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that a steady but gradual recovery is now under way with sales in the first quarter of all commercial vehicles totalling 58,819, a 7.6 per cent rise on a year earlier.

Confirmation of a market revival has come from ERF, the country's last remaining independent heavy truck maker, which is confident of a slow build up in output as demand increases.

Mr John Bailey, sales and marketing director for ERF, said that 50 per cent of the company's output up to August had been sold to United Kingdom customers.

The company is hoping to return to profitability by the end of the year following its

Buying confidence lifts demand for new homes

By Rupert Morris

A significant increase in confidence among house buyers, and a consequent rise in demand for private new housing is revealed by the House Builders' Federation's latest quarterly State of Trade Enquiry, today.

More than half the house builders surveyed reported an increase in interest among first-time buyers, and among owner-occupiers. This represents a substantial improvement over the final quarter of 1981 when only 10 per cent of reported increased interest.

About 57 per cent of housebuilders plan to increase starts this year, while only 9 per cent expect fewer starts. The previous quarter showed 31 per cent of companies planning to increase starts, while 29 per cent expected a fall.

There will be more jobs in housebuilding this year, according to the survey, in which 51 per cent of companies expect to increase on-site employment, with 21 per cent expecting an increase of 10 per cent or more.

Most companies expect margins to be maintained or improved, indicating that house prices have stabilized, according to the Federation.

COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE DE PARIS ET DES PAYS-BAS

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS AND TO HOLDERS OF THE CONVERTIBLE BONDS ISSUED IN 1976 WITH A RISING INTEREST RATE

Under the provisions of the Law of February 11th 1982 COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE DE PARIS ET DES PAYS-BAS will be nationalised through the transfer of the ownership of its shares to the French State.

In exchange for the shares that you are holding you will receive floating rate bonds guaranteed by the French State and issued by Caisse Nationale des Banques (CNB) a publicly owned institution managed by Caisse des Depots et Consignations. These floating rate bonds will be quoted on the Paris Stock Exchange from the commencement of business on April 15th 1982. The shares are valued at FF 303.35 for the purpose of this exchange.

Until April 8th the existing shares will be quoted on the Paris Stock Exchange under the heading 'D.T.I.' (representing the French abbreviation for 'Droits a Titres Indemnitaires' - 'Rights to nationalisation bonds').

Caisse Nationale des Banques will in due course publish a communiqué on the exchange procedures.

In addition the 1976 convertible bonds issued by COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE DE PARIS ET DES PAYS-BAS are no longer convertible into shares. They can either be retained by their holders under the original terms (as to maturity and interest rate) or they may be tendered in exchange for the Caisse Nationale des Banques floating rate bonds provided that the exchange request reaches a French bank or stockbroker at the latest by May 20th 1982. The bonds are valued at FF 374.82 for the purpose of this exchange.

The 1976 convertible bonds will still be quoted on the Paris Stock Exchange until May 19th 1982 under the heading 'O.E.T.' (representing the French abbreviation for 'Obligations Echangeables contre des Titres Indemnitaires' - 'Bonds exchangeable for nationalisation bonds').

For the purpose of this exchange holders of shares and 1976 convertible bonds of COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE DE PARIS ET DES PAYS-BAS should apply to the bank or financial institution which usually deals with their securities.

A separate notice will be published concerning the procedure for the Bearer Depository Receipts of FF 5.00 nominal, issued by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

United Kingdom shareholders may apply to S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., 30, Gresham Street, London, EC2P 2EB (Tel: 01-600-4555 Ext: 8118) for information.

Compagnie Financiere de Paris et des Pays-Bas

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTERNATIONAL



UNITED STATES

The biggest sale of Federal oil and gas drilling rights in the United States history will take place in Alaska in Fairbanks on May 25 when bidders will be offered 10-year leases on 212 tracts totalling 3.5 million acres. The first sale last January involved 59 tracts covering 1.5 million acres.

General Motors workers' narrow acceptance of a 2 1/2-year concessions package may not be able to save the American car maker from further labour trouble because it is launching fresh efforts to obtain further concessions at many of its plants.

JAPAN

Japanese private sector machinery orders, excluding ships, rose 30.6 per cent in February to a seasonally adjusted 747,000 yen (£1,674.15m) from 572,000 yen in January, when they fell 6.2 per cent from December.

Japanese corporate bankruptcies in fiscal 1981, which ended last month, fell 4.5 per cent to 17,397 from a record 18,212 in fiscal 1980, but this was the third highest annual total.

Mitsubishi Motors announced it would provide information on controlling parts inventories and production using industrial robots to Chrysler Corporation of the United States.

Nissan Diesel Motor Co. has concluded a long-term contract to supply American Motors Corporation with diesel engines from mid-1982.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia could announce a cut in its oil production ceiling of 500,000 barrels a day this week to help Nigeria hold the Opec pricing line, according to the Middle East Economic Survey.

ITALY

Italy had a trade deficit of 2,931,000 lire (£1,260.6m) in February, compared with deficits of 1,510,000 lire in January and 1,530,000 lire a year earlier.

Target for Sunday: that elusive reader in the middle

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING

By Tom Douglas

Fleet Street is on the verge of another circulation and advertising battle. Hard on the heels of the bingo war and the skirmishes in the colour supplement market comes the launch of the first national Sunday newspaper for 21 years.

The Mail on Sunday, a sister paper for the Daily Mail, is to be launched in less than three weeks' time, on May 2, and all the signs are that it will be a response to the response this will provoke from rival papers — will become a big news event in its own right.

Already readers of the Daily Mail are being encouraged to sign up with their newspaper to ensure they get their copy of the newspaper. As an incentive, they are being offered a hefty discount — for the first six weeks they can buy it for the same price as the Daily Mail 17p, a saving of 11p on the Sunday's cover price.

Within the first two weeks of the offer, over 150,000 Mail readers had put in their orders and John Winnington-Ingram, managing director, is confident that by the day of the launch the newspaper will have more than 300,000 Mail readers safely under its belt.

The rest of the £3m advertising campaign is just beginning. Television commercials and posters are telling people that The Mail on Sunday is on its way, and over the next three weeks there will be a number of television programmes and radio interviews featuring Winnington-Ingram and Bernard Shrimley, editor, as Associated Newspapers brings to a head its campaign to ensure that everyone in the country is aware that a new Sunday paper is to be born.

For the advertising industry, the launch of any major new publication is an event, but this particular paper has greater goodwill going for it than most. Advertisers have won the war and the Daily Mail has been a success in anybody's terms since its relaunch as a tabloid in 1971.

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING

By Tom Douglas

The advertising business would like to see this success recreated on a Sunday, not least because for many years there has been a monopoly in the middle of that market. Only one paper has been available to advertisers between the Sunday qualities and the papers (or the "naughties" and the "naughties") as the Mail on Sunday's advertising agency, Saatchi and Saatchi Garland Compton, has dubbed them. That is the Sunday Express, which though highly successful over many years is now felt by many advertisers to be unfashionable, with an ageing

keeping his editorial product firmly under wraps.

Since the paper's display revenue target is just £6m with a further £2m budgeted for classified revenue, the Mail on Sunday is already well on its way to profitability. However, there is a world difference in the world between winning early issues on trust for a newspaper — all new publications can sell out their first issues, on curiosity value alone — and sustaining a regular income once that initial interest has died down.

The Mail on Sunday is aiming for an initial circulation of 1.25 million, of which it would like 60 per cent to be in the ABC1 socio-economic groups. It has based its advertising rates on this supposition and advertising agencies reckon that on these costings it offers a very attractive buy.

Everything depends, however, on whether it can achieve this circulation and this is by no means certain. In a Mail on Sunday's favour is the fact that 9 1/2 million people never read a Sunday paper, and many of these read the Daily Mail during the week. The supposition is that if there were a paper they felt at home with on Sunday — ie, a Sunday version of the Mail — they would buy it.

On the other hand, rival newspaper publishers are by no means convinced that there really is room for an extra paper, either in reader ship or in advertising terms. One problem in going for the middle ground, is the fact that the competition comes from all the other papers in the market, and not just one sector.

For months, the other Sunday papers have been gearing themselves up for the launch of the new paper with, inevitably, the Sunday Express, as the paper which has most to lose, in the forefront.

While the Mail on Sunday has said little about its editorial plans, the Express is quite open about its editorial strategy, which centres on its colour magazine, since this is

‘Already advertisers have booked more than £2.25m of display advertising with the paper, and that is without even having seen a dummy issue’

readership. (In fact, the Sunday Express's readership profile is very similar to that of the Daily Mail, which only goes to show how advertising agencies are susceptible to images as the rest of us.)

Most advertising agencies are confident that the Mail on Sunday will do well. "I'd be very surprised if it didn't do very well", says John Malloy, the media director of Youss & Rubicam. "The Daily Mail is a superb editorial product and we look forward to that standard and style being carried across to the middle ground on Sundays."

Already advertisers have booked more than £2.25m of display advertising with the paper, and that is without even having seen a dummy issue since editor Shrimley, even at this late stage, is

keeping his editorial product firmly under wraps.

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Lenkyne

a feature the new paper lacks.

A number of series are planned by the magazine, which has a new editor, Ron Hall, who formerly edited The Sunday Times Magazine. Foremost among these will be the serialisation of Robert Lacey's biography of the Princess of Wales.

The magazine will also be used to give colour treatment to a number of big stories breaking this summer — the visits of the Pope and of President Reagan, the World Cup, the royal baby and Express executives believe this will give them a real edge over the Mail.

Associated Newspapers thought long and hard about whether to launch a colour magazine with the new paper. The only two Sunday newspapers to increase their circulation last year were the two that launched colour magazines — the Express and the News of the World.

"We might launch one later," says Winnington-Ingram, "but so far we have not found a way of doing it economically. In addition, the other colour magazines were launched primarily as a way of boosting the circulation of their parent papers and we are confident we shall sell every copy we can print without any need for that."

This is not such a reckless boast as it might seem. The fact is that finding sufficient production capacity has been one of the new paper's biggest problems and Associated

is unlikely to be able to print more than 1 1/2 million copies even if it wanted to.

The reason is that for many years Associated Newspapers has printed the Sunday People on contract for Mirror Group Newspapers. It has now persuaded The People to move its production into a single building, leaving plant free for the Mail on Sunday, but it has been a real squeeze. For the first 13 weeks of the paper, when circulation is bound to be abnormally high as readers sample the new paper, it has acquired extra capacity in Manchester.

This will mean it can print up to 2 million copies if necessary, but only as a short-term measure.

Running out of copies, of course, is a problem most publishers would like to have but not everyone believes it is a problem that will affect the Mail on Sunday. "I think it may well have a difficult time," says Tony Gwatford, associate media director of the Lintas agency.

"There seems to be a feeling that it may only get a circulation of around 1 million, of which some 300,000 might be new purchasers, with 700,000 being syphoned away from the Sunday Express, the qualities and the popular."

"The real unknown is the large group of Daily Mail readers who do not currently take a Sunday paper. Will a new paper motivate them? It may well not."

Business Editor

Uncertainties ahead

It is the present round of diplomatic manoeuvring between the United Kingdom and the Argentine over the Falkland Islands that should provide financial markets with at least some comfort this week.

But the opening of negotiations over the future of the Falklands would not, of course, do more than lighten the clouds at present overhanging markets. For a start there would be no automatic guarantee that the Falklands would run smoothly. And then, even if a settlement were concluded, it is still far from clear that the Falklands would be adequate to secure the Prime Minister's future.

In short, markets face some awkward weeks ahead. But provided we can expect talking rather than fighting, the authorities will presumably be all out to resist a rise in interest rates — unless, perhaps, it becomes clear that United States rates have nowhere to go but upwards.

Auction houses Hard lessons

The two quoted fine art auction houses finally came down to earth with a bump last week. Christie's International announced a sharp fall in profits, and Sotheby's Parke Bernet confirmed that it is, having major structural problems which will lead to a trading loss in the current year ending in August.

The reassessment of this rarified sector of the stock market has come rather late in the day since it is only in the last few months that it has become apparent that the international fine art market was not as resilient as it had earlier looked.

For most of its five year life as a publicly quoted company, Sotheby's standing has gone from strength to strength with all the attendant publicity surrounding the mega-sales — Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper', the Henry VIII collection, the Leonardo da Vinci Codex and so on.

The investment case, which pushed Sotheby's share price up from its 150p public launch to well over 500p before troubles set in, was based on London's dominance in the international market and the commanding position the two British names occupied in a period of rising inflation, the auction houses appeared to have a built-in cushion with their big-name sales in line with the steady increase in art prices.

At the same time the two houses seemed to be heading for a big jump in profits as the fruits of an aggressive overseas expansion started to ripen. And they were free from the sort of major day problems, such as labour disputes and working capital requirements which manufacturing industry has had to grapple.

So what has gone wrong? For both the houses, one of their major headaches has been if not the collapse of the international art market at least a much quieter

phase than at the end of the 1970s. By their very nature the big sales are lumpy and there have been none of the really big auctions which have helped profits in earlier years. That has forced both groups back to their bread and butter business at the medium and small end of the market at a time when increasing competition in the whole market has also led them into a commission war.

The difficulties have been most acute across the Atlantic where both Christies and Sotheby's have spent heavily to cash in on what they rightly identified at the time as a boom in the North American market. But for the past year high United States interest rates have pulled the rug from under this market.

What has become apparent in the world's salerooms has been the marked emphasis of buyers on quality while there has still been a tendency for vendors to gum up the works by setting unrealistically high reserve prices.

On top of the problems in the whole market, Sotheby's has been afflicted by no character defects of its own. Last week's management changes underlined what has been apparent both inside and outside the company, namely that the commercial voice has in quality while there has still been a tendency for vendors to gum up the works by setting unrealistically high reserve prices.

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MARKETS ROUND-UP

WALL STREET: The Stock Market continued to move upward last week closing at 342.94, a rise of 4.37 points for the week. The Dow Jones industrial average has been climbing steadily in recent weeks, advancing 36 points since March 22 in spite of the weak United States economy, high interest rates and poor prospects for first quarter corporate earnings.

Analysts attribute the rise to a more positive attitude by investors to the economic situation and are acting on the belief that President Reagan's projected tax cuts will stimulate the economy and that inflation is under control. Some investors do not, of course, agree.

They regard the present rise in stock prices as a bear market rally that will run out of steam about the 340 mark unless interest rates fall rapidly. But, the more optimistic note that although the Dow hit 340 last week there was still demand for equities.

Investors are likely to be further heartened this week by news, announced when the markets were closed for Easter, that the money supply for the latest reporting week rose only \$300m (\$505m) — a far cry from the \$1.5 billion rise anticipated, is interpreted to be that the Federal Reserve Bank has the nation's money supply under control and will not have to tighten its policy, a fact that could lead to lower interest rates in the coming months.

Much of the activity on the market last week was attributed to increased participation by cash-rich insurance companies, bank trust departments and other institutional investors.

Last week's trading was market by the second biggest block trade in the history of New York Stock Exchange. Goldman Sachs handled the block of 4.5 million common shares of Houston Industries for \$19.375m made it the third biggest in dollar volume ever traded.

The strength of the market was also fuelled by heavy foreign buying, particularly by British investors, technology stocks which had been under pressure in recent weeks, continued to rally. Texas Instruments rose 1 1/4 points to 84 1/4 and Motorola was up 1 1/4 points to 61 1/4.

HONG KONG: In a two and a half day trading week, the market closed 20 points up, with the Hang Seng Index finishing at 1206.

COMMODITIES

A watershed in the gloomy metal markets was the news last week that Phelps Dodge, the second largest copper producer in the United States, was closing mines until at least the end of May. While smaller producers of the metals have been cutting production and laying off workers for several months, this is the first time that the world's largest copper producer has closed mines completely. Copper prices rose sharply as a result.

Blame lies with the low level of economic activity worldwide in the motor, construction and capital goods industries. World industrial production fell by 1/4 per cent in 1980, and rose only 1/4 per cent last year.

MELBOURNE: Australian stock exchanges entered the Easter break with leading indices slipping marginally from the levels achieved in Wednesday's technical rally.

The All Ordinaries Index dropped 1.7 points, or 0.3 per cent, to 468.9, while the 50 leaders fell two points, or 0.4 per cent, to 424.1. The two indices rose 1.5 per cent, and 2 per cent in what market observers describe as a response to the Falklands dispute.

The metals and minerals index recorded the biggest decline of the leading indices with a fall of four points, or 1.1 per cent, while the all resources dropped 2.9 points and the all industrials lost 0.2 points.

Turnover in Melbourne was \$A6.48m in a shorter three-hour trading session. Trade at the Melbourne Stock Exchange will resume on Wednesday.

Copper cuts push prices up

While the London Business School, with other economic groups, is forecasting an improvement this year — of 1 per cent — this is not likely to materialize until the second half of the year.

In the 1976-77 copper slump the production cuts were nowhere near as sharp as they are now. Dean Witter Reynolds estimate that the United States copper industry is operating at only 55 to 60 per cent of capacity.

Copper producers cannot afford to hold on for the best times that may be over the horizon — they are losing too much money. Smith Barney, Harris Upham put Phelps Dodge's bread-eaten price at about 85 cents a pound — United States

producers now get only 74 cents a pound. Phelps Dodge is, therefore, expected to report quarterly losses of 50 cents to \$1 a share in the first and second quarters, making a loss for the full year against profits of \$3.12 last year.

Last week, Hudson Bay Mining and Codelco announced closures. But foreign producers, such as Chile, Peru, Zambia and Zaire have yet to curtail the production significantly.

Unhappily for so many of the producers, there are equally bad markets for the byproducts such as gold, silver and molybdenum.

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A way to bottle up recession

Rediffusion is rated a "buy" by both Phillips & Drew and Rowe & Pitman. Forecasts of this year's pretax profit from the two brokers differ with Rowe & Pitman £2m lower this year at £10m.

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CAPITAL MARKETS

A jolt for the Bulldog breed

The confrontation with Argentina over the Falkland Islands has dealt a blow to the London capital markets, including the increasingly popular Bulldog bond market.

In fact, Bulldog bonds — issued in the domestic British market by overseas borrowers — were affected by the pressures of the week to about the same extent as the long end of the gilt market.

Falls at the worst were of about £3. Some had falls of only a fraction of a pound.

The number of Bulldog bonds has been steadily increasing, and three have been added this year. Issues in the Euro-sterling market have also increased this year by four. But it is the Bulldog market that banks have expected to see burgeon, because it offers the rare feature of 20-year plus

maturity. There is a queue to be added to the existing 12 states and companies who are represented. Eurobond markets offer only half that term of maturity.

As the maturities are so long, and as issues are in the domestic markets, the Bank of England keeps a tight watch and that is why there has been a waiting list.

Ironically, a number of would-be issuers who turned down their opportunity last year because of the high level of interest rates, had recently indicated that because of the lower rates prevailing they would like to be considered again. The figure which is generally regarded as a tolerance level is 14 per cent.

Last week, there was strong demand for the first Japanese convertible bond

issue to be traded on the Swiss secondary market. This was the 5 1/2 per cent Selskio Homes — the first borrowing by the major Japanese housebuilder on the minimum transaction in trading allowed with Rowe & Pitman £2m lower this year at £10m.

While there are short-term fears about further weakness in the Japanese markets, the Government has been making moves that will boost the domestic construction industry. Longer-term the yen levels are expected to improve once dollar interest rates start to fall, and as lower oil prices end the recession Japanese goods demand for Japanese goods rushed to buy.

European prices (yields and premiums)

Instrument	Price	Yield	Premium
10% Govt Bond	102.50	10.00	0.50
10% Corporate Bond	101.50	10.00	0.50
10% Convertible Bond	100.50	10.00	0.50
10% Floating Rate	100.00	10.00	0.00
10% Index Linked	100.00	10.00	0.00

WEEKLY LIST OF FIXED-INTEREST STOCKS

Stock	Price	Yield
10% Govt Bond	102.50	10.00
10% Corporate Bond	101.50	10.00
10% Convertible Bond	100.50	10.00
10% Floating Rate	100.00	10.00
10% Index Linked	100.00	10.00

Base Lending Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

Company	Price	Yield
1.283 A&P Ind Cals	129	10.0
4.226 Airprug Group	73	4.7
1.100 Armitage & Rhodes	44	4.1
12.159 Bardon Hill	199	2.7
1.325 CCL 11% Conv Pref	106	11.7
4.720 Deborco Services	61	6.0
3.584 Frank Horrell	125	6.4
11.124 Frederick Parker	77	6.1
996 George Blair	54	4.1
3.899 Ind Prec Castings	96	7.3
2.592 Lloyds Bank	108	11.7
2.454 Jackson Group	91	7.8
15.072 James Partridge	215	8.7
2.488 Robert Jenkins	242	3.3
3.180 Scruttons "A"	63	5.3
3.881 Torbay & Carlisle	159	10.7
2.855 Twinklond Ord	134	4.4
2.184 Twinklond 15% ULS	80	15.0
3.015 Unilever Holdings	23	10.3
10.013 Walter Alexander	73	6.4
5.588 W. S. Yates	230	14.5

DOLLAR STOCKS

Stock	Price	Yield
10% Govt Bond	102.50	10.00
10% Corporate Bond	101.50	10.00
10% Convertible Bond	100.50	10.00
10% Floating Rate	100.00	10.00
10% Index Linked	100.00	10.00

BANKS AND

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

BREWERIES

Stock	Price	Yield
10% Govt Bond	102.50	10.00
10% Corporate Bond	101.50	10.00
10% Convertible Bond	100.50	10.00
10% Floating Rate	100.00	10.00
10% Index Linked	100.00	10.00

→ Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. d Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. i Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. . . No significant data.

AY'S RESULTS

Third division	Fourth division
Bristol City 1-0	Accrington 1-0
Doncaster 1-0	Carlisle 1-0
Lincoln 1-0	Crewe 1-0
Millwall 1-0	Exeter 1-0
Newport 1-0	Grimsby 1-0
Sheff Wed 1-0	Leeds 1-0
Southend 1-0	Sheff Utd 1-0
Walsley 1-0	Wigan 1-0
Wolves 1-0	Wrexham 1-0

The extra-hole town still talks about Stadler's green jacket

From John Hopkins, Augusta, April 12

In this pretty, flower-lined town in Georgia, which enjoys one week each year of world fame, the town's talk is still about the extra-hole town still talks about Stadler's green jacket. The town's talk is still about the extra-hole town still talks about Stadler's green jacket. The town's talk is still about the extra-hole town still talks about Stadler's green jacket.

performance kept wading back to the tournament leader and putting him under increasing pressure. At the end of the first round, Stadler was in a position to win the tournament. He dropped a shot on the twelfth by missing a six-foot putt, another on the fourteenth by taking three putts. Now he was only two ahead and another stroke was squandered on the sixteenth when his tee-shot ended in a bunker.



Strong men shall bow... and golf, when played by Stadler, can humble the strongest

England's switches pay off

From Richard Eaton, Bobbingen, West Germany, April 12

Yesterday, England were greatly helped towards the European Cup by the absence of all-England champion Morten Frost and the defeat of the holders, Denmark by Sweden. Today they did a great deal to help themselves, an unexpectedly emphatic 5-0 win over Sweden. The Danish team, which had been playing a half-hour ahead of Stadler, which meant that the roars of applause that greeted his

England's switches pay off

Denmark team, whose morale is already low. England's morale is being constantly perked up by competition for places. It was the best performance since Nick Davis's first round win. That's the value of a strong squad. It also means that the Danes have no opposition when they don't know who they are going to pick.

England's switches pay off

though, eventually winning 11-5, 12-11. Mr. Perry then teamed with his fellow MBE, Gillian Gilks, and beat Miss Magnusson and Miss Borgstrom. The first round of the tournament was a success for England. The team's morale is being constantly perked up by competition for places.

Champion on two and four wheels

Johnny Cecotto, former world motor cycle champion, scored a dramatic win in yesterday's European Formula 1000 championship race at Thruxton. The 26-year-old Venezuelan won despite a pit stop to become the first motor cyclist to win the Formula 1000 championship race. Cecotto's victory was a surprise, as he was not considered a favorite.

Sheene leads Britain to a hollow victory

Sheene's victory was a surprise, as he was not considered a favorite. The race was a closely fought affair, with Sheene leading from start to finish. His victory was a hollow one, as he was not considered a favorite. The race was a closely fought affair, with Sheene leading from start to finish.

Sheene leads Britain to a hollow victory

shoulders badly. Behind Newbold, the British team's morale is being constantly perked up by competition for places. The race was a closely fought affair, with Sheene leading from start to finish. His victory was a hollow one, as he was not considered a favorite.

Britons at their best

There were no medals for Britain yesterday on the fourth and final day of the Martini Atlantic Cup. The British team's morale is being constantly perked up by competition for places. The race was a closely fought affair, with Sheene leading from start to finish. His victory was a hollow one, as he was not considered a favorite.

Halpin strikes again

Dundee Rockets and Murrayfield Racers, already through to the British championship play-offs and the ICY Smith Cup final, will meet in the final of the Spring Cup. The British team's morale is being constantly perked up by competition for places. The race was a closely fought affair, with Sheene leading from start to finish. His victory was a hollow one, as he was not considered a favorite.

Halpin strikes again

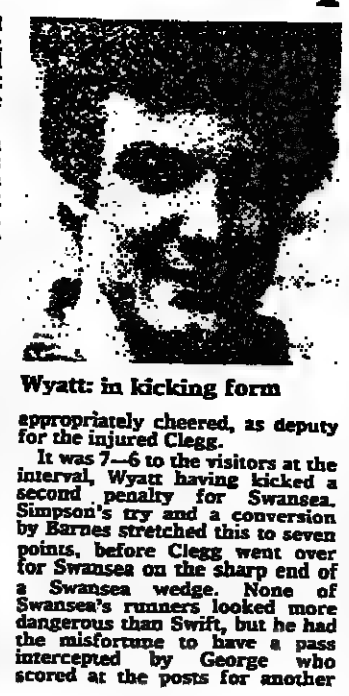
once mystifies Dundee, who have met them three times this season. "We haven't encountered any problems," Halpin said. "It was good, hard-hitting hockey. We didn't see any use of the stick." The British team's morale is being constantly perked up by competition for places. The race was a closely fought affair, with Sheene leading from start to finish. His victory was a hollow one, as he was not considered a favorite.

Keeping noses in front paid off

By Peter West, Rugby Correspondent

Swansea... 22
Barbarians... 25

catch his own chip ahead amongst a melee of opposing forwards, and finally, at the end of a sparkling thrust, to put Johnston away for a try by the hooker, Simpson.



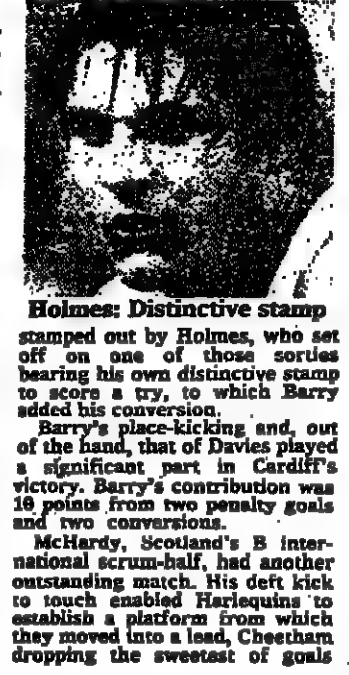
Wyatt in kicking form

conversion by Barnes. That put Barbarians nine points clear. However, behind a Swansea scrummage, Brynnoor Williams and Meredith effected a scissors and a sharp and as cutting for the Swansea centre to score with scarcely a hand laid upon him, and Wyatt converted.

The Holmes fire burns a little too bright for Harlequins

By Peter Marson

Cardiff... 18
Harlequins... 13



Holmes: Distinctive stamp

Almost immediately Barry won back three points with a well-taken scrum. He then scored 35 metres. Hereon it became tense, both sides probing persistently for a weakness yet finding none.

Otley last, like the local stone

Gravell is the Llanelli rock

By Richard Streeton

Only 90 seconds remained when Moseley, the John Player Cup finalists, snatched a late try. The British team's morale is being constantly perked up by competition for places. The race was a closely fought affair, with Sheene leading from start to finish. His victory was a hollow one, as he was not considered a favorite.

at the front of the lineout made important contributions for Moseley, who increased their lead when he scored a try in the 70th minute, when Gravell had an overlap on the left and Thomas landed a good conversion from the touchline. Moseley's chances seemed to have gone, but in the closing moments they broke away from midfield, the ball was moved to the left with Metcalfe in the line and Lawson's basic speed enabled him to cross the line. Akemhead kicked the crucial conversion.

initiative by Douglas's short kicks ahead, and by some hard work from their back row, scored another try in the 70th minute, when Gravell had an overlap on the left and Thomas landed a good conversion from the touchline. Moseley's chances seemed to have gone, but in the closing moments they broke away from midfield, the ball was moved to the left with Metcalfe in the line and Lawson's basic speed enabled him to cross the line. Akemhead kicked the crucial conversion.

There were even moments when Otley threatened to draw level. By the end it was Bath who looked as if they were completing an Eastern 1-2, as they scored a try in the 70th minute, when Gravell had an overlap on the left and Thomas landed a good conversion from the touchline. Moseley's chances seemed to have gone, but in the closing moments they broke away from midfield, the ball was moved to the left with Metcalfe in the line and Lawson's basic speed enabled him to cross the line. Akemhead kicked the crucial conversion.

Kenyan steers his way to fifth victory

From a Special Correspondent

Naibor, Apr 12



On victory trail: Shekhar Mehta leading in his Datsun Sylva

Mehta's Datsun Sylva, which had alternated in the lead with the Opel Astra, despite recurring rear axle trouble, emerged with a clear lead on a gruelling route when the Opel Astra, which had been in the lead, broke a con-rod on the final leg today.

It was a big disappointment for the Kenyan driver, who has yet to win the event, having lost an appeal last year against his defeat when both were driving Datsuns.

Breath of Ayr for Doyle

Professional riders filled the first three places in the Girvan three-day race, which ended yesterday with Tony Doyle (Viscount) winning the race.

Hull thundering up in a three-horse race

Two defeats in four days by Widnes have ruined the holiday for the League leaders and opened up the championship, sponsored by Slalom Lager. While Widnes were missing chances and losing 16-21 at home to St Helens, Hull continued their rampant form to points with Hull, two points behind Widnes, beat Warrington 30-18 and helped to set up a three-horse finish.

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Firmly ahead on merit

Waterloo 6 A resounding victory over Waterloo at College Grove yesterday placed Waterloo firmly at the head of the Northern Merit table, a position from which they cannot now be moved. They are the first Yorkshire club to earn this distinction, Steve Elliott writes.

Scots take tenth place

England's leading players, who have met them three times this season, "We haven't encountered any problems," Halpin said. "It was good, hard-hitting hockey. We didn't see any use of the stick."

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From Our Irish Correspondent Dublin, April 12

A spruce gamble on Fohel Spruce, backed down by Newman and King, has been a gamble on the part of the two men. Newman and King, who are both well known in the Dublin underworld, have been seen in the company of Spruce, who is a well known figure in the underworld. The two men are said to be in the company of Spruce, who is a well known figure in the underworld. The two men are said to be in the company of Spruce, who is a well known figure in the underworld.

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Pledge of action by teachers on pay arbitration

By Richard Garner of The Times Educational Supplement

A teachers' leader said yesterday that there would be immediate industrial action in schools if the Government refused to accept the recommendations of an independent arbitration hearing on their pay claim.

Mr Ronald Winters, chairman of the National Union of Teachers (NUT), said at the union's annual conference in Scarborough: "If there is any attempt to interfere with the independence of the arbitration, our action will be immediate and strong and united."

The teachers' claim for a pay increase in line with inflation (now about 11 per cent) went to arbitration two weeks ago when local education authorities refused to accept the recommendations of an independent arbitration hearing on their pay claim.

Mr Winters, speaking during a debate on the NUT's salary policy for next year, added: "There are some in our profession who hold up their hands in pious horror when we resort to action, but they are always ready to hold out their hands to receive their share of the money we gain."

"Of course we are a caring and responsible profession. We have always had a traditional reluctance to take action which will inevitably affect the schools in which we work. But that care and responsibility that we show has never been seen by our employers or any government as a virtue to be rewarded but rather as a weakness to be exploited."

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, was accused at the conference of encouraging a "surpritious" return to secondary modern grammar school divisions within the comprehensive system.

Mr Fred Jarvis, NUT

general secretary, said: "It is clear that this Government would like to wage a determined attack on our system of comprehensive education." He said there was clear evidence that Sir Keith intended to use his powers, whenever the opportunity arose "to encourage a surreptitious return to the old secondary modern and grammar school division under the umbrella of the comprehensive system."

Mr Jarvis said the threat to the nation's education service was far more serious now than it had been in living memory and said that if the Government's policy remained unchanged, "We will not have an education system with a decent standard of provision and capable of fulfilling all the great promise held out by the 1944 Education Act."

Delegates voted overwhelmingly in favour of a motion calling for an inquiry into discrimination in employment against black school leavers and urging opposition to racism in schools, but which stopped short of asking union members to refuse to work with alleged racists.

A member of the union's executive - was forced to apologise for a muddle over a vote challenging the decision by Mr Alfred Budd, union president, to declare out of order a motion calling on the union to affiliate to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and to support unilateral disarmament. The mix-up led to delegates having to wait more than 50 hours to hear the result.

Mr Peter Cotgrove, chairman of the scrutineers' committee for the conference and executive member for Essex, said in a letter to Mr Budd that he was read out the 1,300 delegates that there had been a "mishap" in the counting of the votes.

Delegates voted against Mr Budd's ruling by 119,475 to 107,045 and Mr Budd said he accepted the majority view. The debate is to be slotted into the conference timetable at the earliest opportunity.

Delegates refused to suspend standing orders to debate an emergency motion on the Falkland Islands which called on the Government to withdraw the naval task force.

Leading article, page 7



Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, also met several hundred young pilgrims from the South-east yesterday. He talked with them over a picnic lunch at the Cathedral and answered questions.

Peace campaigners ask church for support

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

More than a thousand peace demonstrators occupied the nave of Canterbury Cathedral yesterday to present the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, with letters appealing for his support.

Miss Joan Ruddock, national chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, told Dr Runcie that the British Government had rejected the proposals for progressive disarmament of a 22-nation non-aligned group at the United Nations.

A special session of the UN General Assembly on world disarmament will open in June.

"Therefore, we turn to the leaders of our community like yourself, believing that the Church has a very special concern for peace," she said.

Dr Runcie said he would study the hundreds of letters that the demonstrators had given him.

"You have come because you find in Canterbury and in this building, a symbol of peace," he told the demonstrators. "The Christian church must be united in protesting against a world where so much is spent on armaments and preparations for war."

Earlier, the demonstration, organized by CND, the World Disarmament Movement, and the United Nations Association, had paraded through Canterbury with banners, rallying at the city walls, for addresses.

Miss Ruddock told the rally that the Falkland Islands crisis showed how fast a military confrontation could develop in the modern world.

Junta denies holding Marines

Continued from page 1

Military preparations are being made for the arrival of the British Fleet.

Argentine sources claimed that the runway at Port Stanley was long enough for Mirage jets to land and take off and further claimed that a number of the fighters were parked on the runway and ready for combat. The runway was built by the Argentine under a contract with Britain in 1971 to provide a regular air link to Argentina. There is no confirmation of this claim.

The Junta refused to confirm today that it had withdrawn most of its military ships to safe areas in the South Atlantic in response to Britain's threat to sink any naval vessels found within a 200-mile radius of the Falklands.

But sources said some ships were standing by in shallow water where it would be dangerous for a submarine to penetrate. They were said to be within easy reach of the Air Force and the Fleet Air Arm.

Reports from the southern Argentine port of Comodoro Rivadavia said there were incessant comings and goings of aircraft. Señor Nelson Dames, the local civil defence leader, said callars were being fitted out and provisioned as shelters in case of attacks by British forces.

The local hospital, which now has a large red cross painted on the roof, has been fitted out as an emergency centre for wounded soldiers.

The military junta today dismissed reports that it might hold 22 British Marines as hostages. The Marines, with 13 civilians, were captured in the Falklands dependency of South Georgia on April 3 and have not been seen since. A Government

Negotiated settlement 'almost certain'

Continued from page 1

sovereignty or a United Nations presence.

The senior Tory MP also joined Mr Pym in emphasizing the need for a settlement to be acceptable to the Islanders.

Certainly, there seemed little danger last night that the Foreign Secretary was moving out of step with his own backbenchers.

One right-wing Conservative MP, Mr Anthony Marlow, member for Northampton, North, agreed that the wishes of the islanders should be a key to any settlement, as it had been during 15 years of negotiation.

Mr Marlow also said that the possibility of "lancing the boil" had raised his own hopes that a settled future for the islands may now open the way to a development of resources around the islands, something which has hitherto been blocked by the festering dispute with Argentina.

Dr Owen said in his radio interview: "Presumably, if a United Nations peacekeeping force were to be there at all, even a United Nations presence, they would have a flag, and if the British Government were to be there, administering the islands on behalf of Britain, there would be a British flag. I suppose it is probably liveable with that. The Argentinean flag flies there as well."

Dr Owen added, however: "What I don't think any Government could accept is the Argentinean flag flying, because that would be an assumption that British sovereignty had been conceded, and we would not be prepared to do that."

He said that a negotiated settlement was now "almost certain reality". The only danger was that British public opinion should become more hawkish; more tough-minded than that of the islanders themselves.

"I don't want the Falkland Islanders conceding anything under duress," he explained. "But I do believe there is a sense of realism amongst the Falkland Islanders. They are going to have to live in the Southern Atlantic, they are going to be dependent on Argentina for communications and many links."

"I believe they are realistic enough to know that out of this is going to have to come some settled relationship between the Falkland Islands and Argentina."

Today's events

Royal engagements
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother attends a gala concert given by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall, 7.20.

New exhibitions
Peter Moore's Liverpool Project 6 - Art into the 80's including work by Henry Moore, Matza, Ben Johnson, Harry Holland and John Bellamy. Fruit Market Gallery, 29 Market Street, Edinburgh. Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun; (from today until April 24).

Drawings and prints by Stephanie Fryer, Stafford Museum and Art Gallery, The Green, Stafford; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun and Monday; (from today until May 1).

Installations and drawings by Brian Kennedy, Art and Research Exchange, Lombard Street, Belfast. Mon to Sat 12 to 5, closed Sun; (from today until April 23).

Design in India: an exhibition tracing the historical development of modern design in India from the early forties, with 3-D exhibits, models and photographs; Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, W8; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 and Sun 2 to 5 (from today until May 23).

Last chance to see
Photographs by Raymond Moore, RPS National Centre of Photography, The Octagon, Milson Street, Bath; 10 to 4.45; (ends today).

Embroideries from Gujarat and Rajasthan, an exhibition in conjunction with The Festival of the Arts of India, Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield; 10 to 5; (ends today).

Talks, films
Colour in the garden, talk with slides by Stuart Cave, Manners Street Baptist Church, Bath, 7.

Sargent, by Richard Humphreys, Tate Gallery, 1.

Animal Camouflage, by Steve Pollack, Natural History Museum, 3.

Films: Florence - the restoration of books (1), Botticelli - the story of spring (2), both at National Gallery, 1.

Thebes, 11.30 and Nubia, 1.15; both by George Hart, British Museum.

Music
Not So Dusty: a selection of music presented by Dick Johnson, Carshalton Library, The Square, Carshalton, Sutton, 8.

Cornel Music Group recital, Southwark Cathedral, 1.10 pm.

Recital by Gilbert Towland (Barpsichord), Purcell Room, South Bank, 8.30.

Concert by the Baroque Strings, Zurich, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, 7.45.

Concert by Luciano Pavarotti (tenor), with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Albert Hall, 7.30.

Organ recital by Andrew Goodwin, Bangor Cathedral, 1.15.

Walks
Ghosts of the City meet St Paul's Underground, 7.30.

The Ripper Murders 1888, meet Detective East Undergound (Art Gallery Exit), 7.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,804

ACROSS
1 Sink for metal-worker (7).
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9 Bereaved parent petrified at loss of life (5).
10 Folds inside perhaps as some chemists do (8).
11 Respect in which Eton's head encounters opposition (5).
12 Drug source for Veronica (9).
13 Concerning article missing from faulty antenna (5).
14 Piloted horse without hesitation (7).
15 He follows a dubious philosophy (7).

DOWN
1 Gun brings pirate closer (9).
2 Strip off uniform (7).
3 Send-off given by underworld to a band of the mass media (9).
4 Bird's neck-frill (4).

5 I left defence chief in Wiltshire (10).
6 Outline for a military HQ (5).
7 Punished for what the honest bookie did (4-3).
8 Heading for a peerage? (5).
9 Getting a second call, newly-weds top the programme (10).
10 Beaufort provides power-station site (9).
11 Parts of the house, I hear, are painfully affected (9).
12 It's not decent to scatter bones round church (7).
13 Stuff finished before test (7).
14 Places for scholars in newspaper offices (5).
15 Duck! Get down for cover! (5).
16 'scape of troubles (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,803

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Classical best-sellers

Best-selling records last week were:
1. Beethoven: Violin concerto, Perlman (HMV ASD4059).
2. Holst: The Planets, Karajan (DG2582019).
3. The Legendary Hollywood String Quartet (HMV RLS785).
4. Dvorak: Cello Concerto, Cohen (CFPA0331).
5. Strauss: Alpine Symphony, Karajan (DG2582015).
6. Poulenc: Les Biches Suite, Pretre (HMV ASD4067).
7. Mahler: Symphony No 2, Solli (Decca D22902).
8. Sibelius: Symphony No 5, Ashkenazy (Decca SXDL7451).
9. Mendelssohn/Bruch: Violin Concertos, Muller (DG2582016).
10. Walton: Symphony No 1, Haitink (HMV ASD4061).

Roads

London and the South-east: The Automobile Association advises that various roadworks cause delays on the A40 Western Avenue between Ealing and Uxbridge. From 9 am until 4 pm the centre lane of both carriageways of the A40 will be closed for maintenance work. Watch out between junctions 10 and 11 near Crayke.

Wales and the West: A55: Subsidence at Holywell, Clwyd. Only half road open, serious delays. Use (A55) coast road or A55 via Holywell.

Roadworks at Three Milestone roundabout, diversion for west-bound traffic, eastbound speed limit 30. Restrictions at Dean Road, A40, near Clwyd, 10.15 pm. Plymouth, A40: Two-way traffic on one carriageway at peak times between Clowes and Rose-on-Wye.

Midlands: A34: Very long delays on Birmingham Road, Stratford, and also at Bridgeway, Stratford. A38: Closure Road, Stratford on Avon, closed during. M1: Extensive roadworks between junctions 14 (Newport) and 18 (A423 Rugby) in Northamptonshire cause serious delays.

The North: A100 and A66(M) north of Scotch Corner to junction with A68 and full length of A66(M) north Yorkshire, occasional lane closures.

Scotland: A27: Kilmarnock Road, near Auchinhouse road (B762) Glasgow, one lane only each way. A8: North of Blair Atholl roadworks. A92: Closed between Inverlaid junction and Charlotte Street.

Family centre
There are many activities of interest for children and parents at the Natural History Museum's family centre.

Activities include quizzes, tank-rubbings and looking through microscopes. There are also natural history specimens, such as bones, fossils and stuffed birds, which visitors can inspect and handle. Workbooks can be obtained at a small charge for children to use in the galleries.

The centre is open until April 26, 10.30 to 12.30, and from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. It is closed on Sundays and Mondays. Entrance is free and the museum is in Cromwell Road, London SW7.

Anniversaries

Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States, Shadwell, Va, 1743; Richard Trevithick, engineer, Illogan, Cornwall, 1771; F W Woolworth, Rodman, New York, 1852.

Secessionists take Fort Sumter, Charleston, West Virginia - the beginning of the American Civil War, 1861.

The papers

The Christian Science Monitor notes that Egypt is edging back into the good graces of the Arab world, and sees the latest signs appearing with Egypt's attendance at a non-aligned conference in Kuwait.

The steps taken at the conference, the Monitor says, were not major breakthroughs exactly, "but hints of moderation that could be built on."

During the Easter weekend we have not known whether war or peace would break out tomorrow, says the Daily Express. Still we do not know what tomorrow will bring. Sir Randolph Fiennes has gone through or over the North Pole, and says that his expedition has shattered the record for a single-engine flight from England to New Zealand.

A third hero of our time, Mr Spirling Moss, was unable to compete at Silverstone because of an accident suffered on his 500cc scooter in Chelsea. But eight women parachutists managed to link hands in mid-air somewhere over the West Country, thus establishing a new free-fall record. And the good news: British Leyland exports are higher than ever with doubled sales on the continent last month; and eight out of 10 people in black and coloured communities in South Africa believe the English cricket tour did nothing to harm the cause of multi-racial sport and might have improved it.

At least it makes a change from war and peace.

Fire in the home

Every year fires kill about a thousand people and seriously injure and scar thousands more. Would you know what to do if fire broke out in your home?

If you think there is a fire, close all doors and keep them shut, especially the door of the room where you think the fire might be. The door will hold back the fire for up to 20 minutes.

Put a cloth over your nose and mouth, for you may get everyone out of the house. And call the Fire Brigade by dialling 999.

The Pound

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Weather

Pressure will remain high over Britain but frontal troughs will move E across N Scotland.

6 am to midnight
London, SE, central S England, E Anglia, Midlands: Mainly dry, sunny intervals; wind variable, mainly NW, light or moderate; max temp, 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).
Central N, NE England: Mainly dry, bright periods; wind mainly W, light or moderate; max temp, 8 or 9C (46 to 48F).
Cheshire, SW England, S Wales, W Midlands: Mainly dry, sunny intervals; wind variable, light or moderate; max temp, 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).
N Wales, NW England, Lake District: Mainly dry, sunny intervals; bright periods; becoming rather bright; wind mainly W, light or moderate; max temp, 8 or 9C (46 to 48F).
Edinburgh, Glasgow, central Highlands: Mainly dry, bright periods; becoming rather cloudy; wind W or SW, moderate or fresh; max temp, 9 or 10C (48 to 50F).
SW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, some rain at first, sunny intervals developing; wind SW, moderate or fresh; locally stronger; max temp, 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).
Brighton, Isle of Man, W. Ireland: Bright intervals, becoming cloudy with occasional rain; wind SW, moderate or fresh; locally stronger; max temp, 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).
Aberdeen, NW Scotland, N Ireland: Bright intervals, becoming cloudy with occasional rain; wind SW, moderate or fresh; locally stronger; max temp, 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Rain and showers at first, mainly in the N, otherwise mainly dry.

SEA PASSAGES: S. North Sea: Wind NW, fresh or strong; sea rough. Straits of Dover: Wind N, moderate or fresh; sea rough. English Channel (E. St George's Channel, Irish Sea): Wind, mainly N, light or moderate; sea slight.

Lighting up time
Sun rises 6.10 am
Sun sets 7.55 pm
Moon rises 12.18 am
Moon sets 8.52 am

Last quarter April 16.

London 6.25 pm to 6.30 pm
Birmingham 6.45 pm to 6.51 pm
Edinburgh 6.58 pm to 7.04 pm
Perth 6.42 pm to 6.48 pm

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